STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

MENACE REVEALED

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DARK HORSE BOOKS®

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Special thanks to Elaine Mederer, Jann Moorhead, David Anderman, Leland Chee, Sue Rostoni, and Carol Roeder at Lucas Licensing.

Star Wars® Omnibus: Menace Revealed
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This volume collects *Star Wars* #27: *Starcrash*; *Dark Horse Extra* #35–37: *Star Wars*—"Heart of Fire"; *Star Wars* #28–31: *The Hunt for Aurra Sing*; *Star Wars: Jedi Quest* #1–4; *Star Wars: Jango Fett*; *Star Wars: Zam Wesell*; *Star Wars: The Bounty Hunters—Aurra Sing*; *Dark Horse Extra* #44–47: *Star Wars*—"Poison Moon"; *Star Wars: Starfighter—Crossbones* #1–3; Hasbro/Toys"R"Us minicomics, *Star Wars* #1–4.

Published by Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com | starwars.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

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First edition: August 2009
ISBN 978-1-59582-273-4

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
Printed at Midas Printing International, Ltd., Huizhou, China

As a galaxywide war looms, the Jedi are distracted by a thousand different threats, on a thousand different fronts. The Sith menace has been revealed, but its source and its machinations are still unseen . . .

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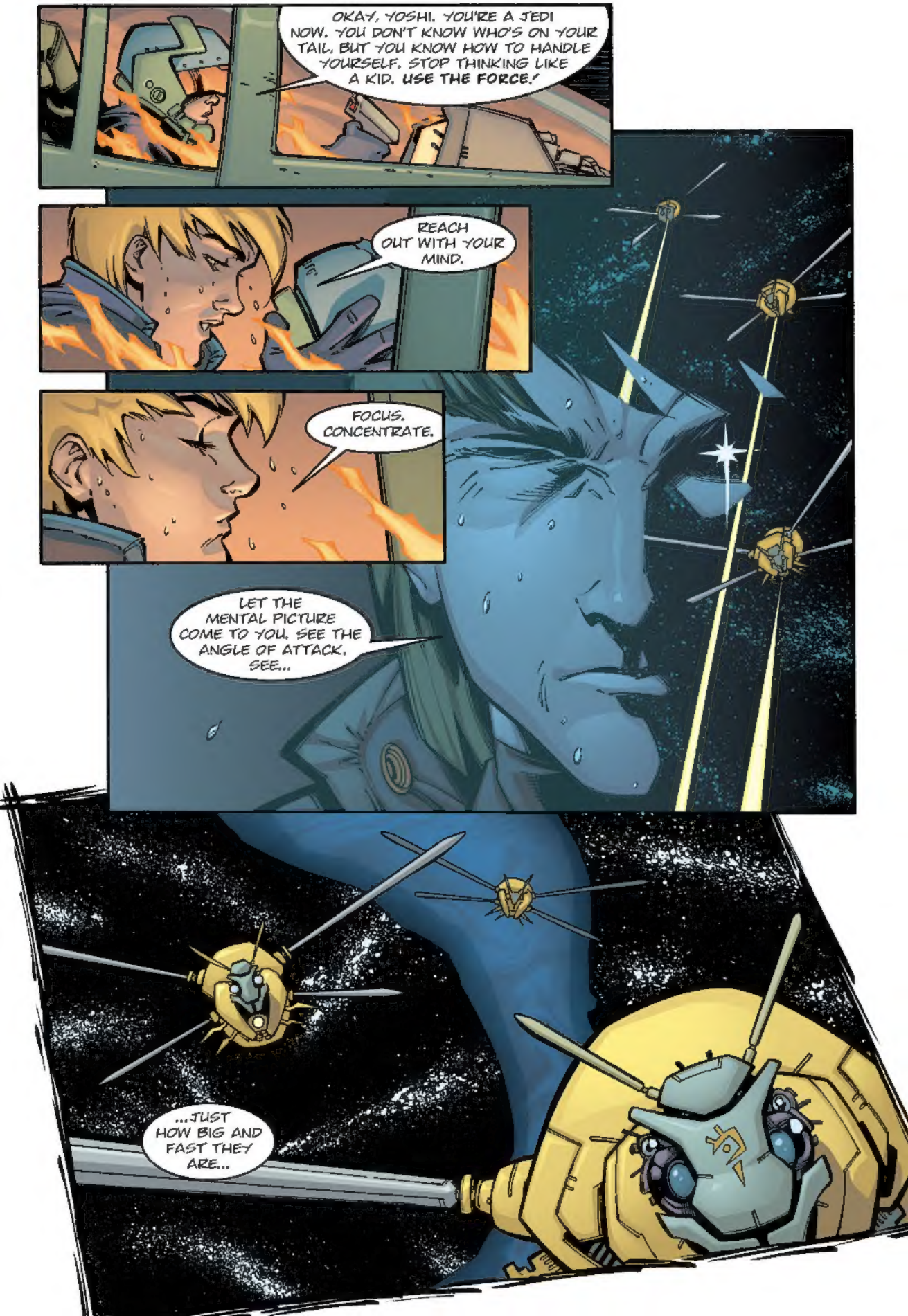
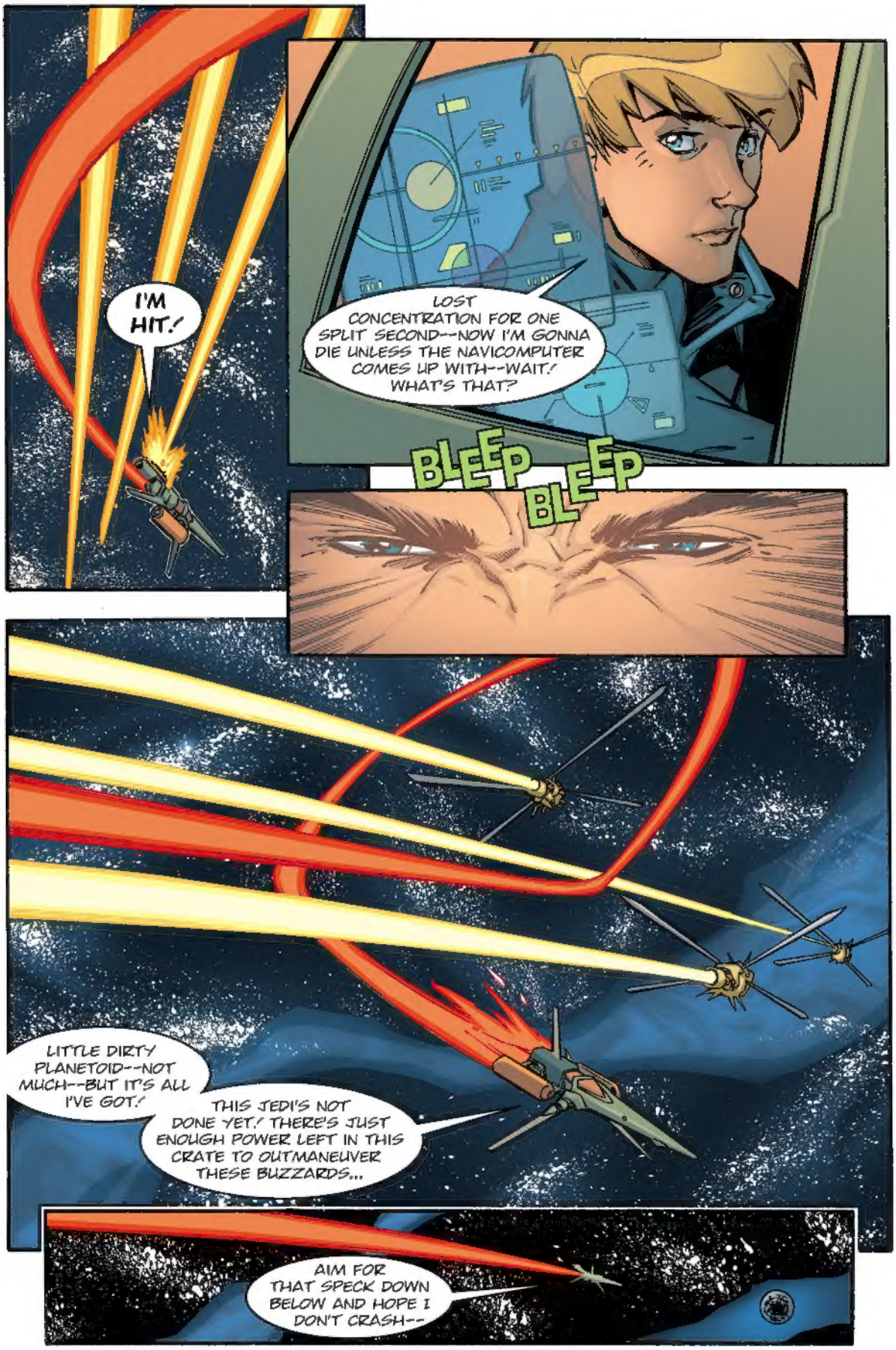
Starcrash | illustration by Randy Green, Andy Owens, and Dave McCaig

APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-ONE YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

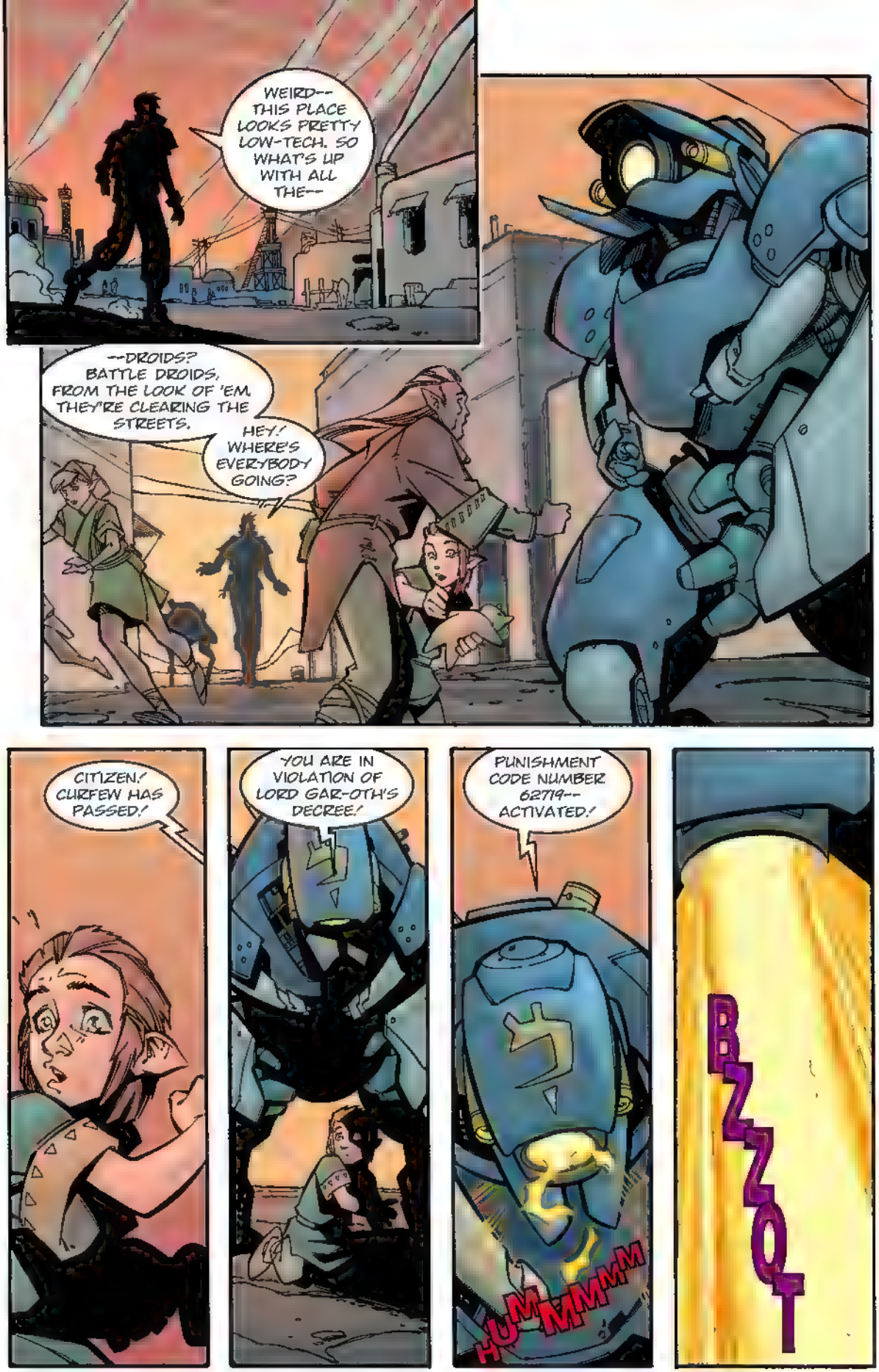
script by Doug Petrie
pencils by Randy Green
inks by Andy Owens
colors by Dave McCaig
letters by Annie Parkhouse

YOSHI RAPH-ELAN--ONCE A PADAWAN, NOW A NEWLY CHRISTENED JEDI KNIGHT. HE'S YOUNG. HE'S EAGER. AND HE'S--
UNDER ATTACK!
DO I KNOW THESE GUYS?


OKAY, YOSHI. YOU'RE A JEDI NOW. YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S ON YOUR TAIL, BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE YOURSELF. STOP THINKING LIKE A KID. USE THE FORCE!
REACH OUT WITH YOUR MIND.
FOCUS. CONCENTRATE.
LET THE MENTAL PICTURE COME TO YOU. SEE THE ANGLE OF ATTACK. SEE...
...JUST HOW BIG AND FAST THEY ARE...


I'M HIT!
LOST CONCENTRATION FOR ONE SPLIT SECOND--NOW I'M GONNA DIE UNLESS THE NAVICOMPUTER COMES UP WITH--WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?
BLEEP BLEEP
LITTLE DIRTY PLANETOID--NOT MUCH--BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT!
THIS JEDI'S NOT DONE YET! THERE'S JUST ENOUGH POWER LEFT IN THIS CRATE TO OUTMANEUVER THESE BUZZARDS...
AIM FOR THAT SPECK DOWN BELOW AND HOPE I DON'T CRASH--

--CRASH!
YEEE-OUCH!
SHIP'S GONNA BLOW-- NO TIME FOR SALVAGE. JUST SET THE RESCUE BEACON AND BOLT. GOOD THING I'VE STILL GOT MY--
--LIGHTSABER?
NUTS. NO WINGS, NO WEAPONS, AND THOSE ATTACK SHIPS COULD LAND HERE ANY MINUTE TO FINISH ME OFF. HUH. VILLAGE DOWN BELOW. NO POINT IN WAITING AROUND.
THE COUNCIL SHOULD SEND RESCUE SOON.:sigh: AND AFTER SEEING HOW BAD I MESSED UP TODAY, THEY'LL PROBABLY SEND ME BACK TO MY CRUMMY HOME PLANET.

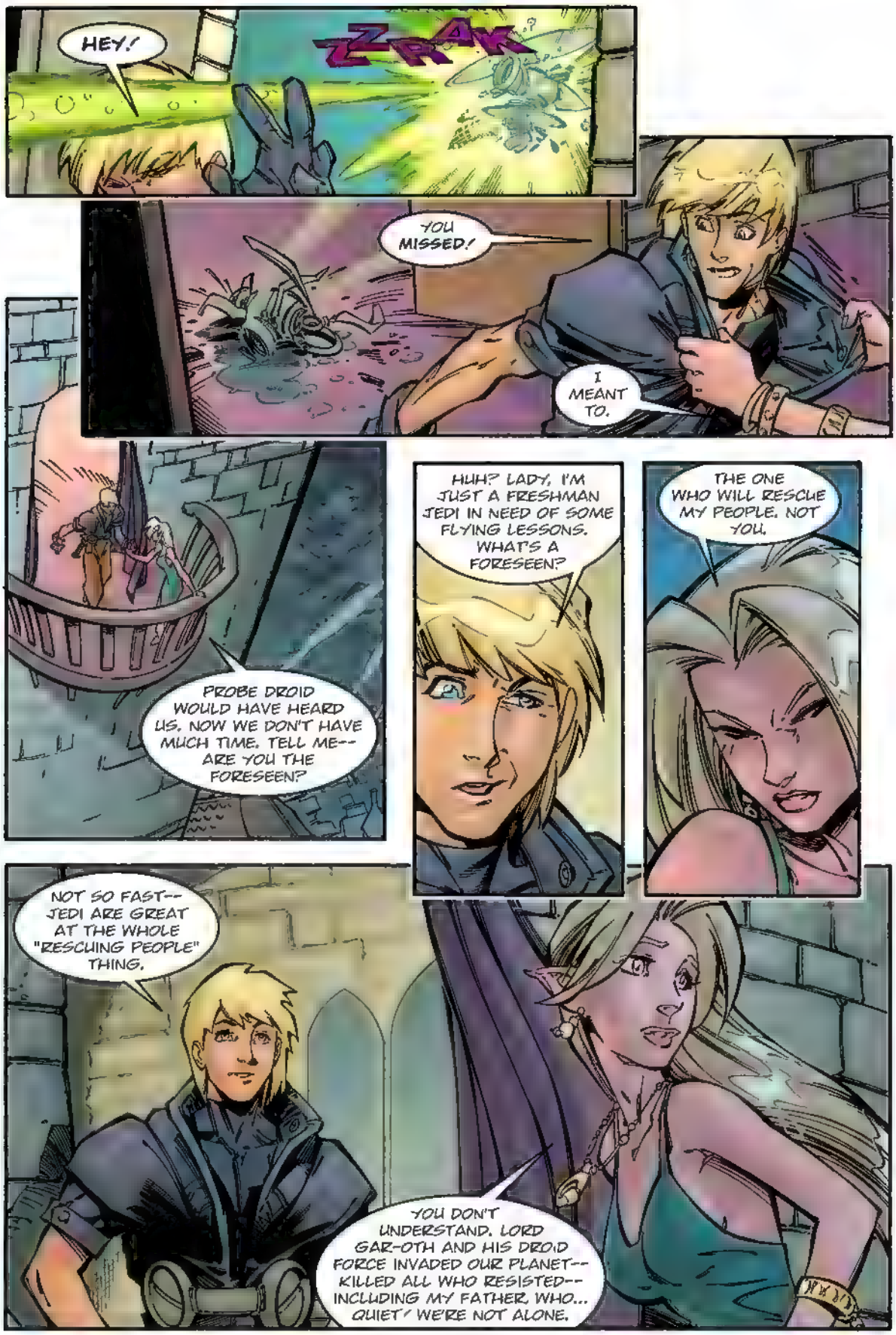

WEIRD-- THIS PLACE LOOKS PRETTY LOW-TECH. SO WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE--
--DROIDS? BATTLE DROIDS, FROM THE LOOK OF 'EM. THEY'RE CLEARING THE STREETS.
HEY! WHERE'S EVERYBODY GOING?
CITIZEN! CURFEW HAS PASSED!
YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF LORD GAR-OTH'S DECREE!
PUNISHMENT CODE NUMBER 62719-- ACTIVATED!
HUMMMMM
BZZZT

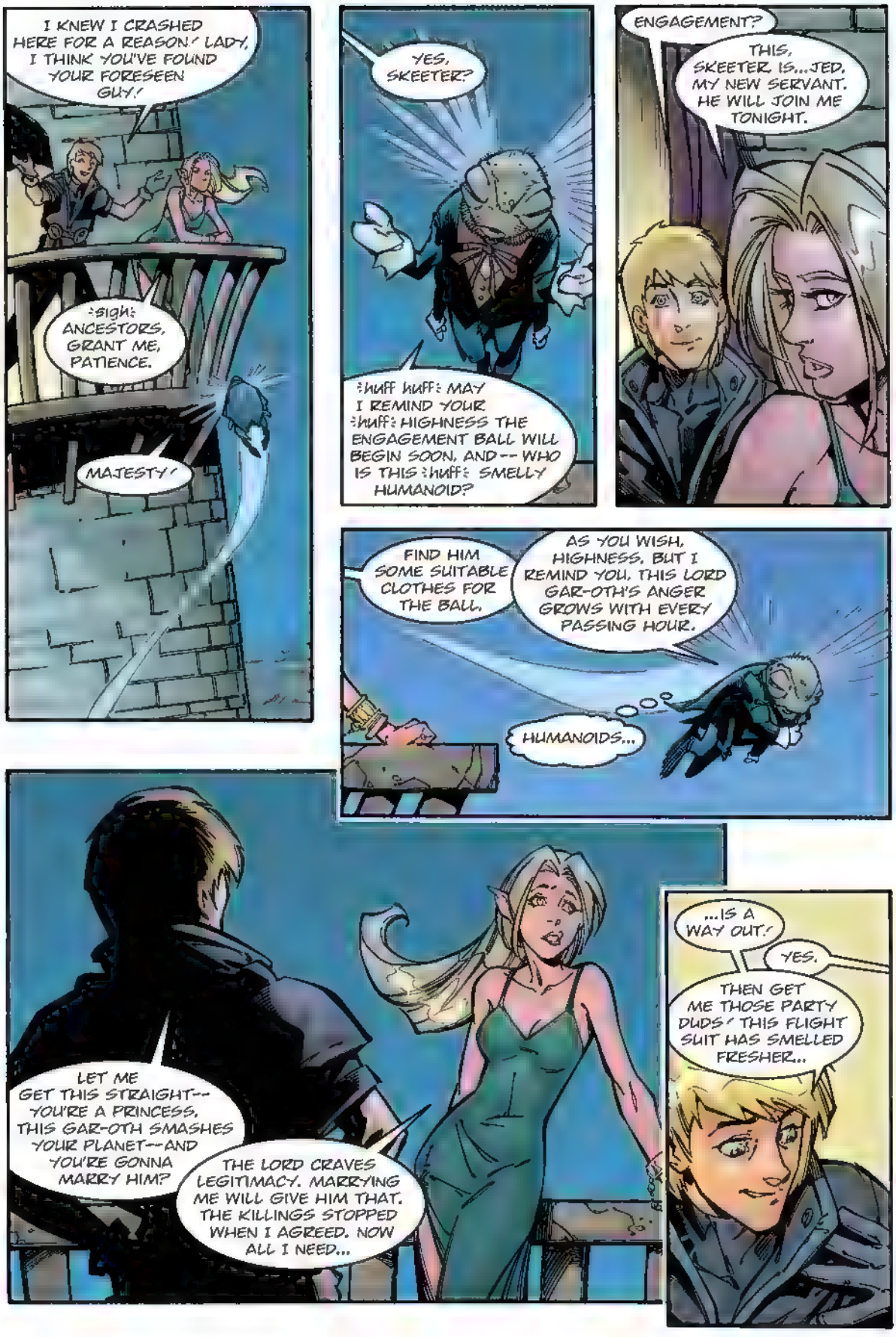
KID--
LOOK OUT!
SHAKK
VIOLATION! VIOLATION! YOU HAVE VIOLATED LORD GAR-OTH'S DECREE, CODE NUMBER 352719.
BACK OFF, NUTS AND BOLTS. THE KID'S JUST LATE FOR DINNER. YOU WANT TO BLAST SOMEONE--TRY ME.
TAKE OFF, KID.
PENAL CODE ACTIVATED!
HA! GEARHEAD HERE DOESN'T KNOW I'M A JEDI--THIS IS PLAYTIME FOR ME. JUST GOTTA SLICE UP HIS CIRCUITS WITH MY--
GAH!

YEOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
BZZNOOOT!
PAF
I'VE HAD IT! SICK OF GETTING SHOT AT BY MACHINES. FROM NOW ON, WE DO THIS--
--THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY!
MORE BATTLE DROIDS COMING--HE'S PART OF A UNIT! I GOTTA POLISH OFF THE BIG GUY--
--ANY WAY I CAN! THAT OUGHT TO HOLD HIM.
NOW, A LITTLE REWIRING, AND I MIGHT FIND OUT HOW A DROID ARMY TOOK OVER THIS PLANET, AND WHERE THIS "LORD GAR-OTH"--
--LIVES...

HOLY WOMP RATS! A CASTLE! CAN'T BELIEVE ALL THESE DROIDS COME FROM A PLACE SO OLD--SO BEAUTIFUL! WELL, I WON'T SOLVE ANY MYSTERIES STICKING AROUND HERE...
GOOD THING THIS PLACE WAS -- hmmff -- EASY TO SPOT!
MECHANICAL GUARDS--THE PLACE IS LOUSY WITH 'EM!
LOOK NASTY, TOO. BETTER PLAY THIS SNEAKY. SLIP MY WAY INTO THE MAIN CHAMBER...

IT'S TIME THIS LORD GAR-OTH GUY MET A REAL JEDI...
...FACE TO ...OOPS.
WHO ARE YOU?
UH... HEH. IT'S A FUNNY STORY, ACTUALLY...
DONT MOVE!
NO! WAIT! JEDI! GOOD GUY! DON'T--
--SHOOT!


HEY!
ZZRAK
YOU MISSED!
I MEANT TO.
PROBE DROID WOULD HAVE HEARD US. NOW WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. TELL ME-- ARE YOU THE FORESEEN?
HUH? LADY, I'M JUST A FRESHMAN JEDI IN NEED OF SOME FLYING LESSONS. WHAT'S A FORESEEN?
THE ONE WHO WILL RESCUE MY PEOPLE. NOT YOU.
NOT SO FAST-- JEDI ARE GREAT AT THE WHOLE "RESCUING PEOPLE" THING.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. LORD GAR-OTH AND HIS DROID FORCE INVADED OUR PLANET-- KILLED ALL WHO RESISTED-- INCLUDING MY FATHER, WHO... QUIET! WE'RE NOT ALONE.

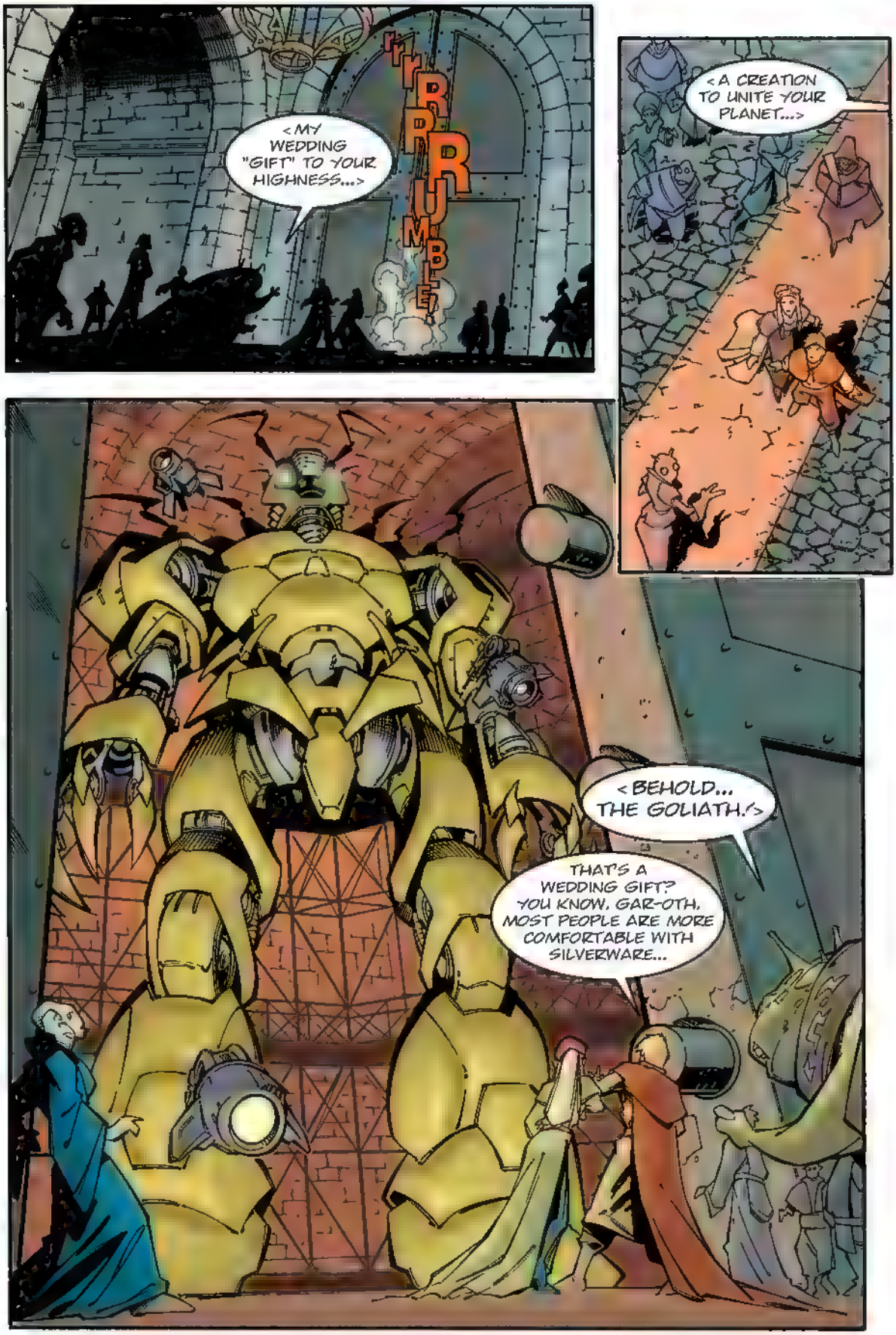

I KNEW I CRASHED HERE FOR A REASON. LADY, I THINK YOU'VE FOUND YOUR FORESEEN GUY.
:sigh: ANCESTORS, GRANT ME, PATIENCE.
MAJESTY!
YES, SKEETER?
:huff huff: MAY I REMIND YOUR :huff: HIGHNESS THE ENGAGEMENT BALL WILL BEGIN SOON, AND -- WHO IS THIS :huff: SMELLY HUMANOID?
ENGAGEMENT?
THIS, SKEETER, IS...JED. MY NEW SERVANT. HE WILL JOIN ME TONIGHT.
FIND HIM SOME SUITABLE CLOTHES FOR THE BALL.
AS YOU WISH, HIGHNESS, BUT I REMIND YOU, THIS LORD GAR-OTH'S ANGER GROWS WITH EVERY PASSING HOUR.
HUMANOIDS...
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT-- YOU'RE A PRINCESS, THIS GAR-OTH SMASHES YOUR PLANET--AND YOU'RE GONNA MARRY HIM?
THE LORD CRAVES LEGITIMACY. MARRYING ME WILL GIVE HIM THAT. THE KILLINGS STOPPED WHEN I AGREED. NOW ALL I NEED...
...IS A WAY OUT.
YES.
THEN GET ME THOSE PARTY DUDS. THIS FLIGHT SUIT HAS SMELLED FRESHER...

THAT EVENING...
PRINCESS LOURDES! LORD GAR-OTH ARRIVES. WE HOPE FOR YOUR SAKE ALL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE.
FEAR NOT. YOUR LORD SHALL BE GREETED IN A MANNER WHICH BEFITS HIM.
LET US HOPE.
HEY, I DON'T WANT TO RUSH THINGS, BUT DO WE HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A PLAN, YOUR HIGHNESS?
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. AND REMEMBER-- YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY SERVANT. DON'T STAND SO CLOSE.
BUT I KINDA LIKE BEING...
<PRINCESS!>
LORD GAR-OTH DEMANDS AUDIENCE.
<Translated from the Yahk-Tosh>
YOU SURE YOU WANT OUT OF THIS? 'CAUSE THAT IS ONE GOOD-LOOKING GUY.
DROP DEAD, JEDI.

YEECH.
<SOON, WE SHALL MERGE, OUR BEINGS AND EMPIRES BOTH.>
SHH!
<BUT NOT SOON ENOUGH! MY MYSTICS HAVE ENVISIONED A "FORESEEN" ONE WISHING TO TEAR US APART! AND SO, FOR THE GOOD OF OUR EMPIRES-- I DEMAND WE WED HERE--AND NOW!>
MY LORD, I...I...
BATTLE DROIDS HAVE BEEN SENT TO OUR VILLAGES, HIGHNESS!
RESIST AND WE DIE! THERE'S NO CHOICE!
OKAY--MAY I SAY SOMETHING?
NOT NOW, "SERVANT."
NO! I CAN'T REMAIN SILENT! FOR I AM NOT HER MAJESTY'S SERVANT! I AM... I AM...
...HER HUSBAND! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?!
HER HUSBAND?
WHAT?
RRRRRAAAAARRRR!

< SO BE IT! >
STOP!
YOU'LL KILL HIM!
QUITE RIGHT! ROYAL LAW MAKES COMBAT BETWEEN SUITORS LEGAL. RULES STATE, ONE-- THEY MUST FIGHT TO THE DEATH...
NOT IF I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
...AND TWO-- NO LIVING CREATURE MAY HELP.
ZTRATZ
AND TECHNICALLY, SINCE DROIDS AREN'T LIVING...

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD FOR THE HUMANOID.
BLASTERS! I'VE HAD IT-- UNLESS...
OF COURSE! USE MY JEDI TRAINING...
MY MIND-- TO MAKE GAR-OTH...
AAPFGGGH!
<MIND TRICKS, BOY?>
<JEDI FOOL! I WAS GOING TO KILL YOU QUICKLY, BUT YOU'VE TRULY ANGERED ME. NOW...>
<FACE MY WRATH!>
23


< MY WEDDING "GIFT" TO YOUR HIGHNESS...>
RRRUMBLE
< A CREATION TO UNITE YOUR PLANET...>
< BEHOLD... THE GOLIATH.>
THAT'S A WEDDING GIFT? YOU KNOW, GAR-OTH, MOST PEOPLE ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SILVERWARE...

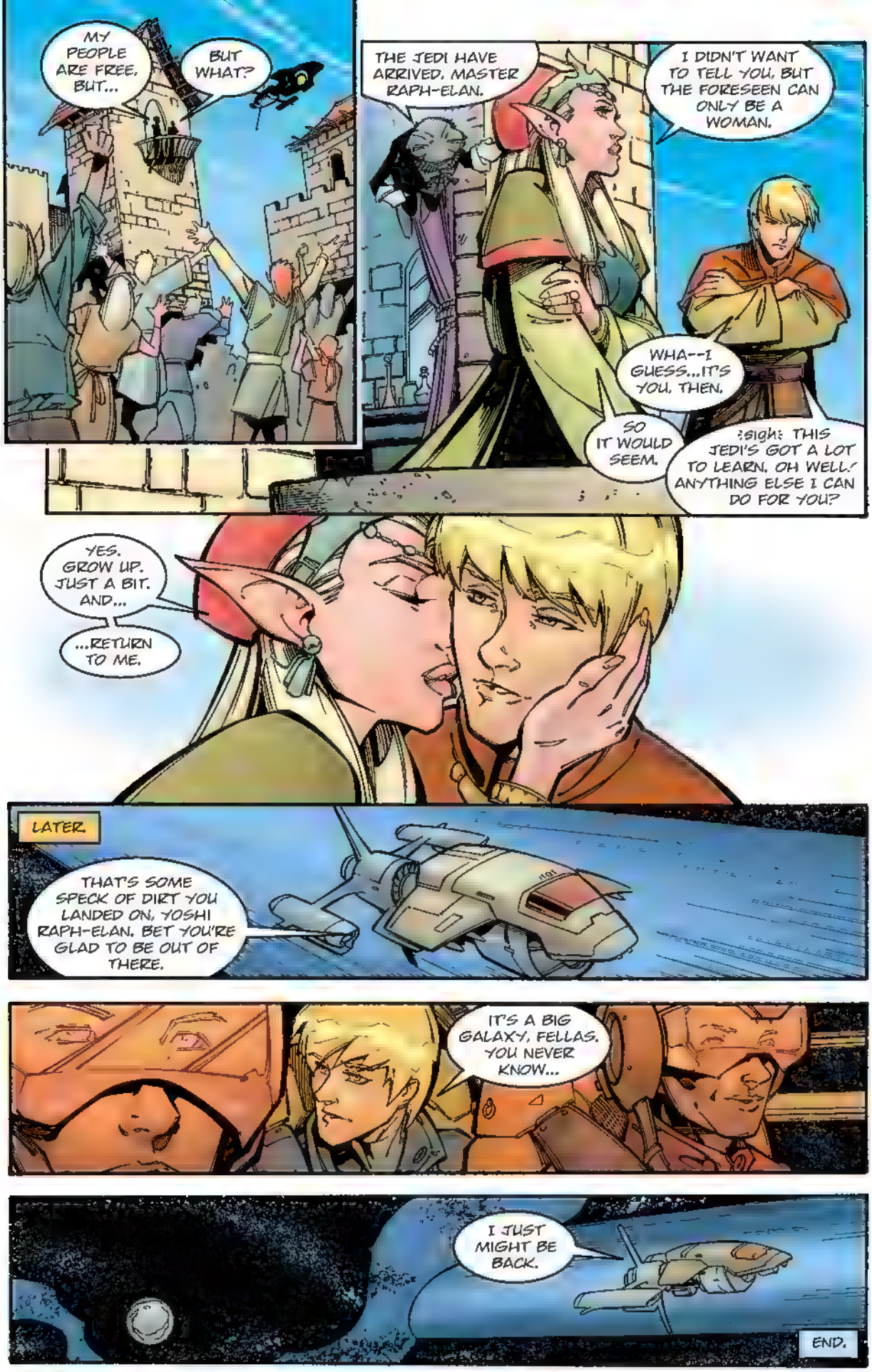
<LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, FOOL!>
<THE GOLIATH OBEYS MY TELEPATHIC COMMANDS ALONE.>
<AND I AM WILLING IT NOW...>
<TO CRUSH YOU BOTH.>
WHOA.' PRINCESS, IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO ASK, BUT IN ALL YOUR ROYAL TRAINING--THEY EVER TEACH YOU--
TO FIGHT? MY FATHER WAS THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN THE SYSTEM.
THEN TAKE GAR-OTH. SEVER THAT TELEPATHIC LINK.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M GOING AFTER--

--THE GOLIATH!
GOT TO MOVE SWIFTLY...
...WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED--
NO!
<YOU THINK ME WEAK, "BELOVED"?>
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO BIG--MOVE SO QUICKLY...

HE'S KILLING THE PRINCESS! BUT IF I STOP TO HELP HER-- THE GOLIATH WILL KILL US ALL!
PERMISSION TO DELIVER THE KILLING STROKE, MY LORD?
<HER BREATH--SO SWEET--A PITY IT'S TO BE HER LAST.>
NOW, NOW, GENTLEMEN...
I SUGGEST WE ALLOW THEM TO SETTLE THIS THEMSELVES. I'D HATE TO BLAST YOUR HEADS OFF.
AS I'D BE THE ONE TO CLEAN UP AFTERWARD.
<DEATH IS ALWAYS UGLY, PRINCESS. NOT EVEN YOUR FAIR FACE CAN CHANGE THE FACT.>
I KNOW, MY LORD...

AS MY FATHER TAUGHT ME...
...I KNOW.
HUKK!
THE PRINCESS DID HER PART--NOW IT'S UP TO ME. GOLIATH'S STILL ON SOME KIND OF AUTOPILOT. BUCKING LIKE A WILD TAUNTAUN...
SIGNALING RESERVES...
LIGHTSABER'S USELESS-- UNLESS-- I CAN USE THE GOLIATH'S OWN CIRCUITRY...
ONE CHANCE...

GOT IT.
FWOOMM
SZZWARSH
FWAROOOMM
GANGWAY! THINK THAT'S THE END FOR THAT WEDDING GIFT, PRINCESS.
AND LORD GAR-OTH'S MEN AS WELL, I'M AFRAID.
SO? BE HONEST. AM I YOUR "FORESEEN" ONE OR WHAT?
I THOUGHT JEDI WERE HUMBLE.
FIRST DAY ON THE JOB.
WELL...


MY PEOPLE ARE FREE, BUT...
BUT WHAT?
THE JEDI HAVE ARRIVED, MASTER RAPH-ELAN.
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU, BUT THE FORESEEN CAN ONLY BE A WOMAN.
WHA--I GUESS...IT'S YOU, THEN.
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
:sigh: THIS JEDI'S GOT A LOT TO LEARN. OH WELL. ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YOU?
YES. GROW UP. JUST A BIT. AND...
...RETURN TO ME.
LATER.
THAT'S SOME SPECK OF DIRT YOU LANDED ON, YOSHI RAPH-ELAN. BET YOU'RE GLAD TO BE OUT OF THERE.
IT'S A BIG GALAXY, FELLAS. YOU NEVER KNOW...
I JUST MIGHT BE BACK.
END.

Approximately thirty-one years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

"Heart of Fire"

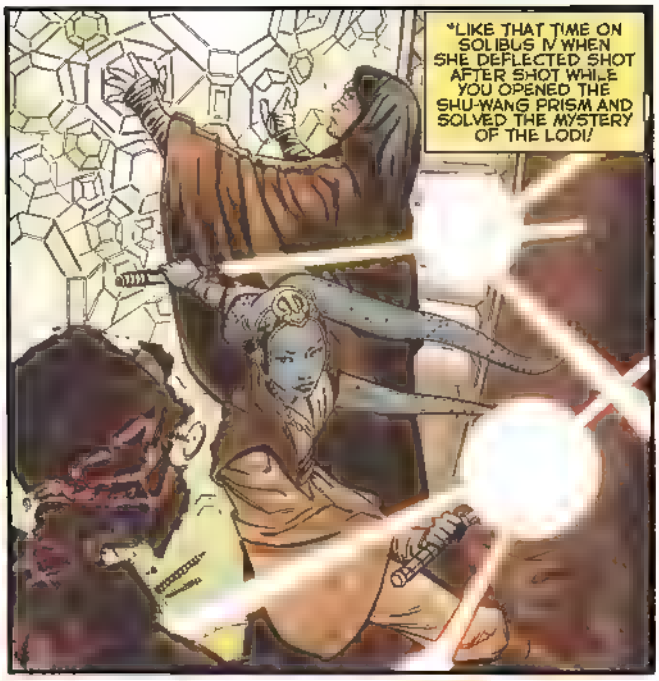
script by John Ostrander

art by Ian Duursema

colors by Dan Jackson

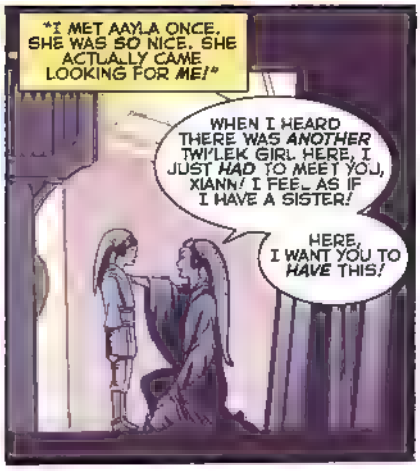
STAR WARS
HEART OF FIRE
THE MEDITATION GARDEN IN THE JEDI TEMPLE ON CORUSCANT...
F-FORGIVE ME, MASTER... I DO NOT MEAN TO INTRUDE ON YOUR MEDITATIONS...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU'RE THE PADAWAN WHOSE MASTER... DIED.
HE WAS MURDERED... BY THE BOUNTY HUNTER AURRA SING.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, LITTLE ONE?
XIAAN AMERSU, AND YOU ARE QUINLAN VOS. BAD MEN STOLE YOUR MEMORY.
PLEASE, MASTER VOS-- HAS YOUR PADAWAN, AAYLA SECURA, BEEN FOUND?
NO. NOT YET.
I...I'M SORRY MASTER, BUT SHE... SHE INSPIRED ME, YOU SEE. TWI'LEK FEMALES ARE NOT WELL RESPECTED AT HOME BUT SHE BECAME A JEDI!
AND...AND SHE ONCE GAVE ME A GIFT!

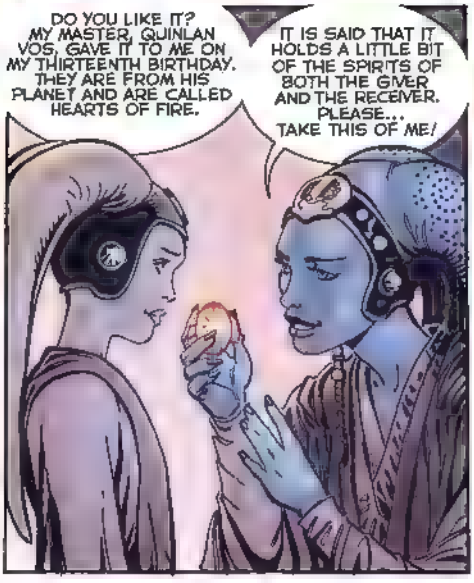
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU AND AAYLA SECURA, MASTER VOS.


"LIKE THAT TIME ON SOLIBUS IV WHEN SHE DEFLECTED SHOT AFTER SHOT WHILE YOU OPENED THE SHU-WANG PRISM AND SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE LODI!

"OR WITH THE SKYBOATS ON XOMAN THREE WHEN YOU EXPOSED THE TRAITOR AND RECOVERED THE LITTLE PRINCESS FROM THE PIRATES! THAT WAS AWESOME! AND THE RECORDS SAY MANY OF YOUR MISSIONS WERE TOO SENSITIVE FOR MY LIMITED ACCESS."

I WOULDN'T KNOW. I HAVE NO DIRECT MEMORIES OF ANY OF THEM. THEY ARE ONLY STORIES FOR ME.

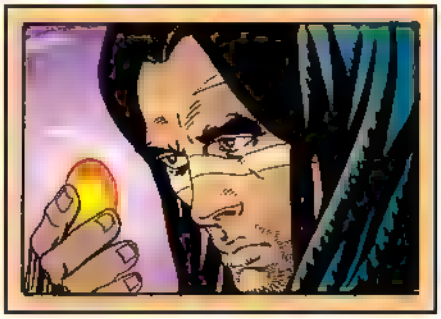

"I MET AAYLA ONCE. SHE WAS SO NICE. SHE ACTUALLY CAME LOOKING FOR ME!"
WHEN I HEARD THERE WAS ANOTHER TWI'LEK GIRL HERE, I JUST HAD TO MEET YOU, XIANN! I FEEL AS IF I HAVE A SISTER!
HERE, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THIS!

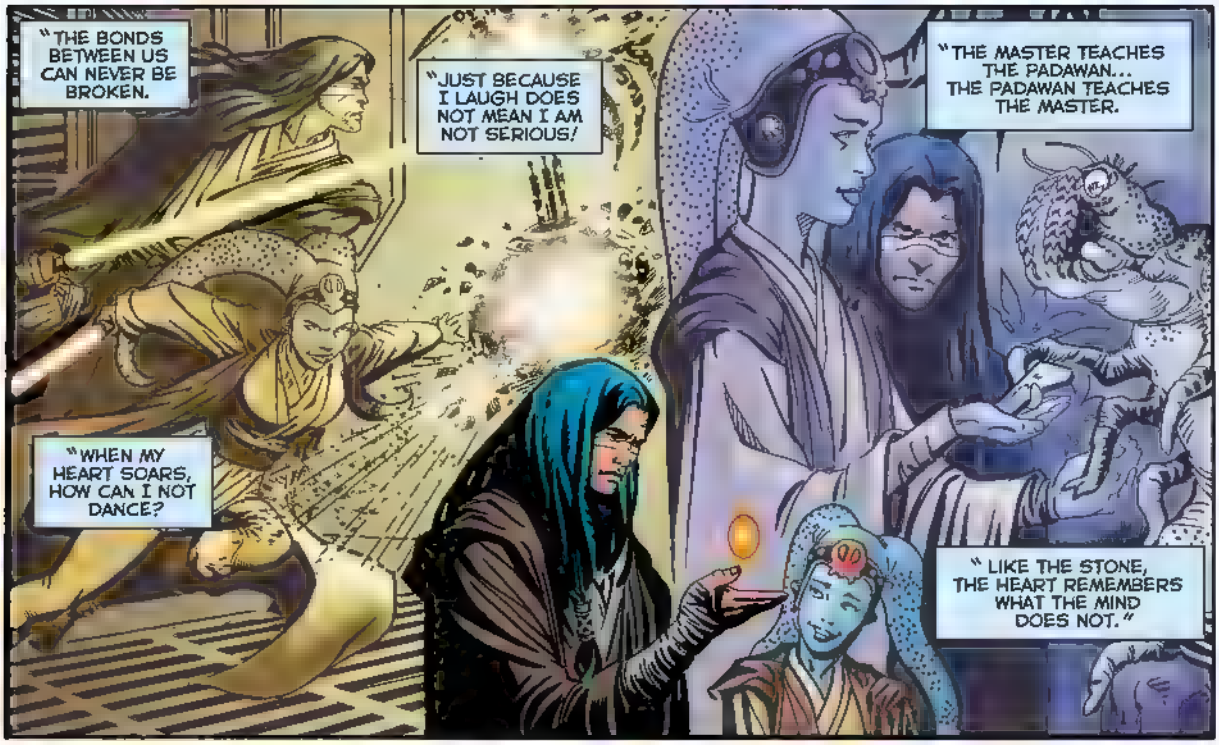

DO YOU LIKE IT? MY MASTER, QUINLAN VOS, GAVE IT TO ME ON MY THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY. THEY ARE FROM HIS PLANET AND ARE CALLED HEARTS OF FIRE.
IT IS SAID THAT IT HOLDS A LITTLE BIT OF THE SPIRITS OF BOTH THE GIVER AND THE RECEIVER. PLEASE... TAKE THIS OF ME!

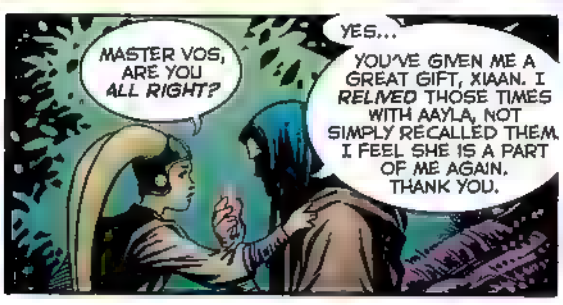
PLEASE, MASTER VOS... NOW I WANT TO GIVE IT TO YOU!

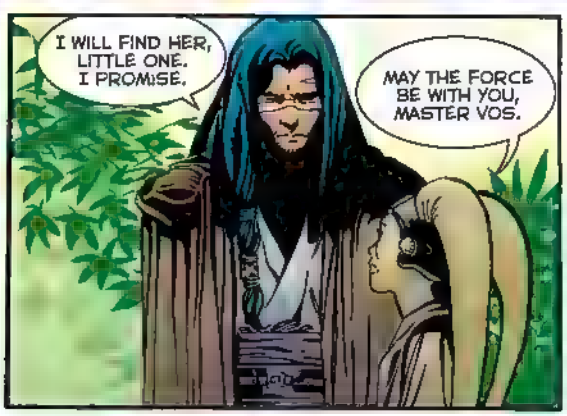
I...I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD TAKE THIS, XIAAN...
YOU MUST!
YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO READ IMAGES OFF OF OBJECTS! PART OF AAYLA IS HERE. YOU *NEED* TO DO THIS!

VERY WELL.




"THE BONDS BETWEEN US CAN NEVER BE BROKEN.
"JUST BECAUSE I LAUGH DOES NOT MEAN I AM NOT SERIOUS!
"THE MASTER TEACHES THE PADAWAN... THE PADAWAN TEACHES THE MASTER.
"WHEN MY HEART SOARS, HOW CAN I NOT DANCE?
"LIKE THE STONE, THE HEART REMEMBERS WHAT THE MIND DOES NOT."


MASTER VOS, ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT?*
YES...
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A GREAT GIFT, XIAAN. I *RELIVED* THOSE TIMES WITH AAYLA, NOT SIMPLY RECALLED THEM. I FEEL SHE IS A PART OF ME AGAIN. THANK YOU.


I WILL FIND HER, LITTLE ONE. I PROMISE.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, MASTER VOS.

END

The Hunt for Aurra Sing | illustration by Jon Foster

Approximately thirty years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

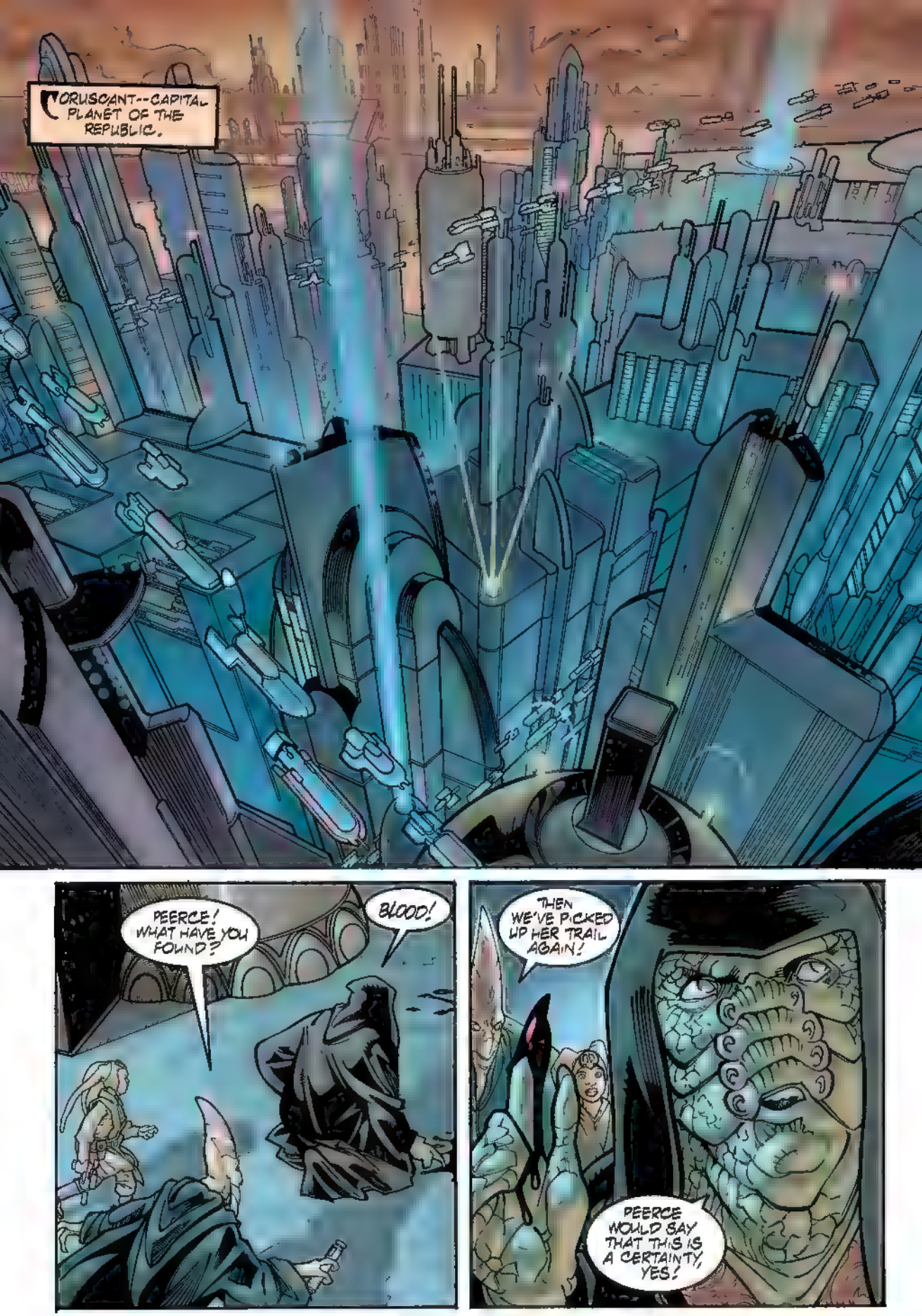
script by Tim Truman

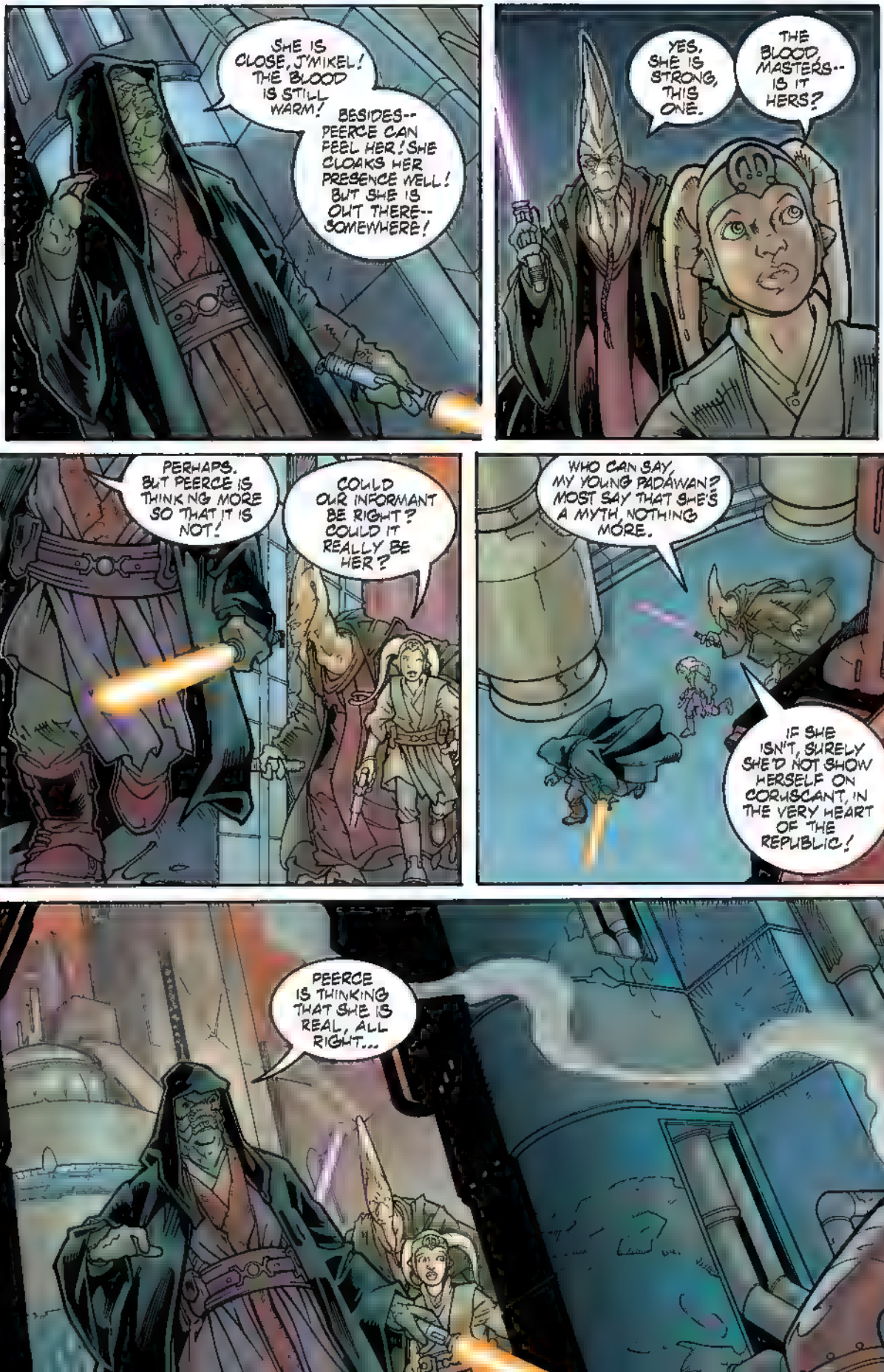
pencils by Davidé Fabbri

inks by Christian Dalla Vecchia

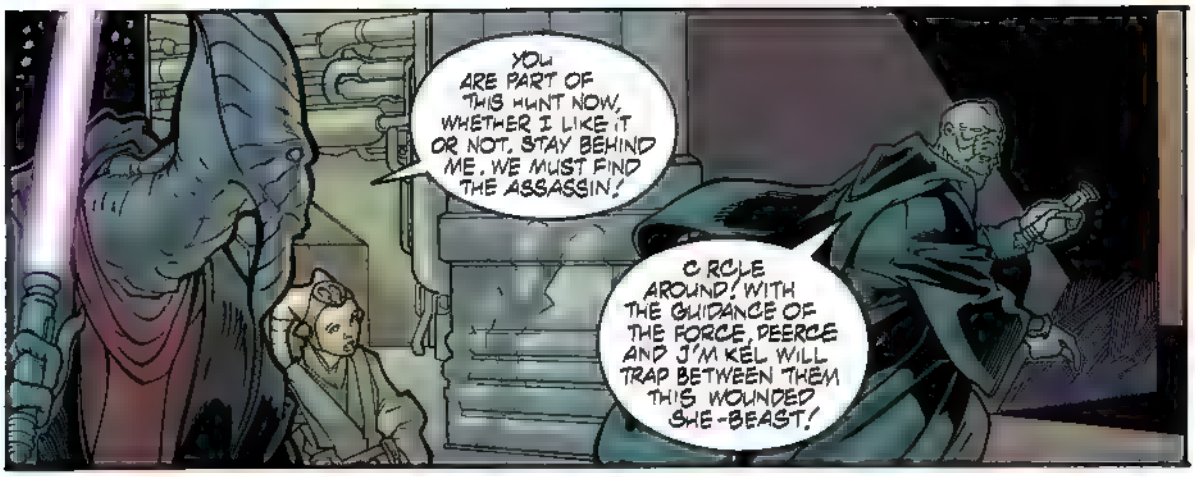
colors by Dave McCaig

letters by Steve Dutro

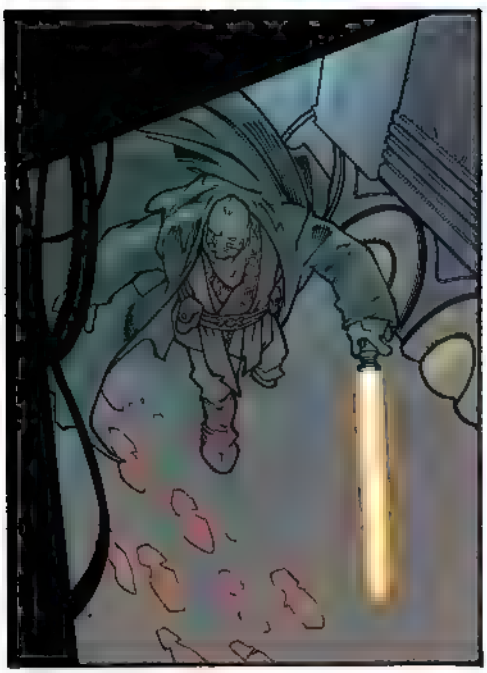

CORUSCANT--CAPITAL PLANET OF THE REPUBLIC.
PEERCE! WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND?
BLOOD!
THEN WE'VE PICKED UP HER TRAIL AGAIN!
PEERCE WOULD SAY THAT THIS IS A CERTAINTY, YES!

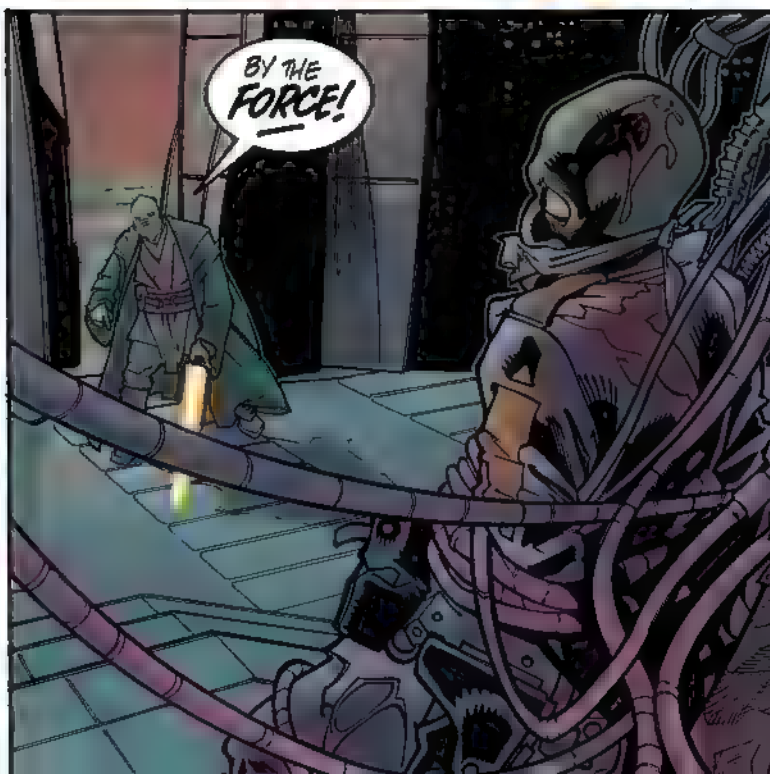

SHE IS CLOSE, J'MIKEL! THE BLOOD IS STILL WARM!
BESIDES-- PEERCE CAN FEEL HER! SHE CLOAKS HER PRESENCE WELL! BUT SHE IS OUT THERE-- SOMEWHERE!
YES. SHE IS STRONG, THIS ONE.
THE BLOOD MASTERS-- IS IT HERS?
PERHAPS. BUT PEERCE IS THINK NG MORE SO THAT IT IS NOT!
COULD OUR INFORMANT BE RIGHT? COULD IT REALLY BE HER?
WHO CAN SAY, MY YOUNG PADAWAN? MOST SAY THAT SHE'S A MYTH, NOTHING MORE.
IF SHE ISN'T, SURELY SHE'D NOT SHOW HERSELF ON CORUSCANT, IN THE VERY HEART OF THE REPUBLIC!
PEERCE IS THINKING THAT SHE IS REAL, ALL RIGHT...

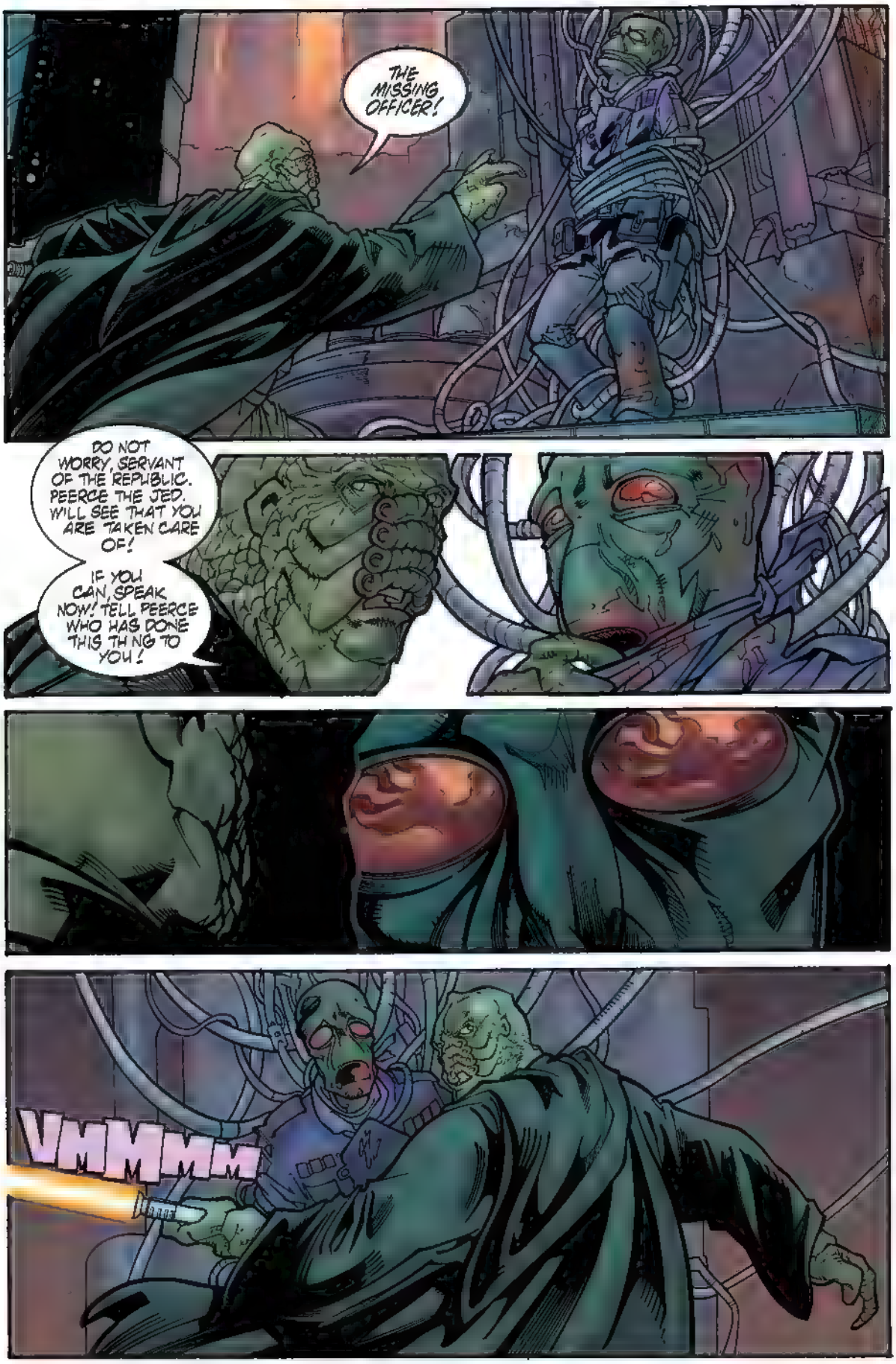
...THAT MUCH IS VERY CLEAR!
A SQUAD OF REPUBLIC PEACE OFFICERS!
AYE. BUT SQUADS ARE ALWAYS MANNED BY FIVE. PEERCE SEES ONLY FOUR BODIES HERE!
SEE? ONE GAVE CHASE TO THE V.LLAIN.!
YES, MY FR.END-- OR WAS PURSUED!
I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN LED TO WITNESS THIS TRAGIC SCENE, MY PADAWAN.
I-I'M ALL RIGHT, MASTER. THOSE BEINGS HAVE GONE TO JOIN THE FORCE.
A GOOD THING IN ITS WAY, IS IT NOT?
YOU ARE A WISE STUDENT--AND BRAVE. YOUR WORDS G.RD THE HEART OF AN OLD JEDI.
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL BE A GREAT KNIGHT.

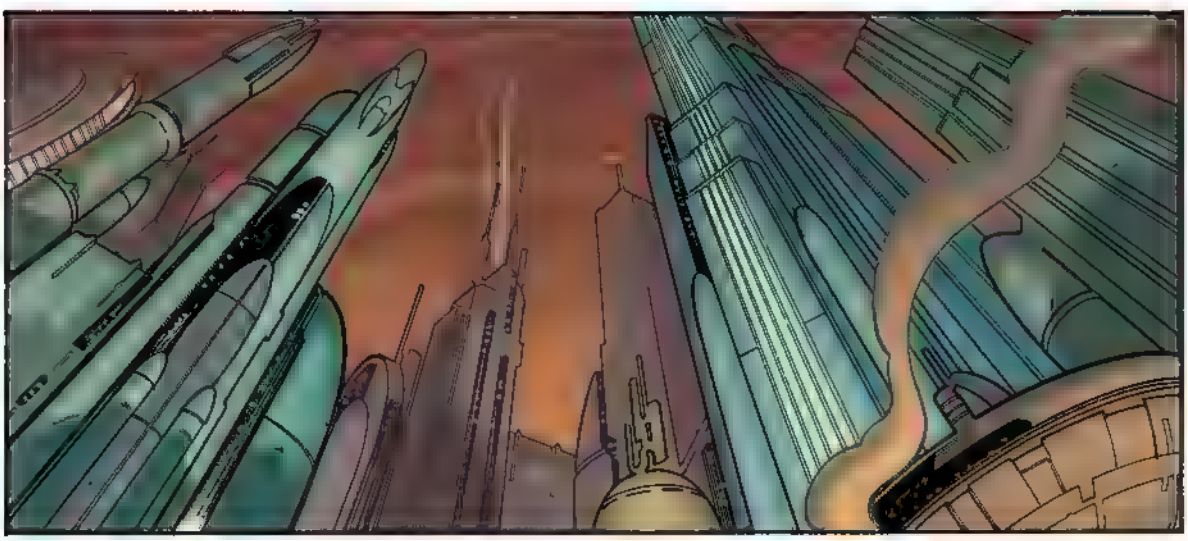

YOU ARE PART OF THIS HUNT NOW, WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT. STAY BEHIND ME. WE MUST FIND THE ASSASSIN!
CIRCLE AROUND! WITH THE GUIDANCE OF THE FORCE, DEERCE AND J'MKEL WILL TRAP BETWEEN THEM THIS WOUNDED SHE-BEAST!

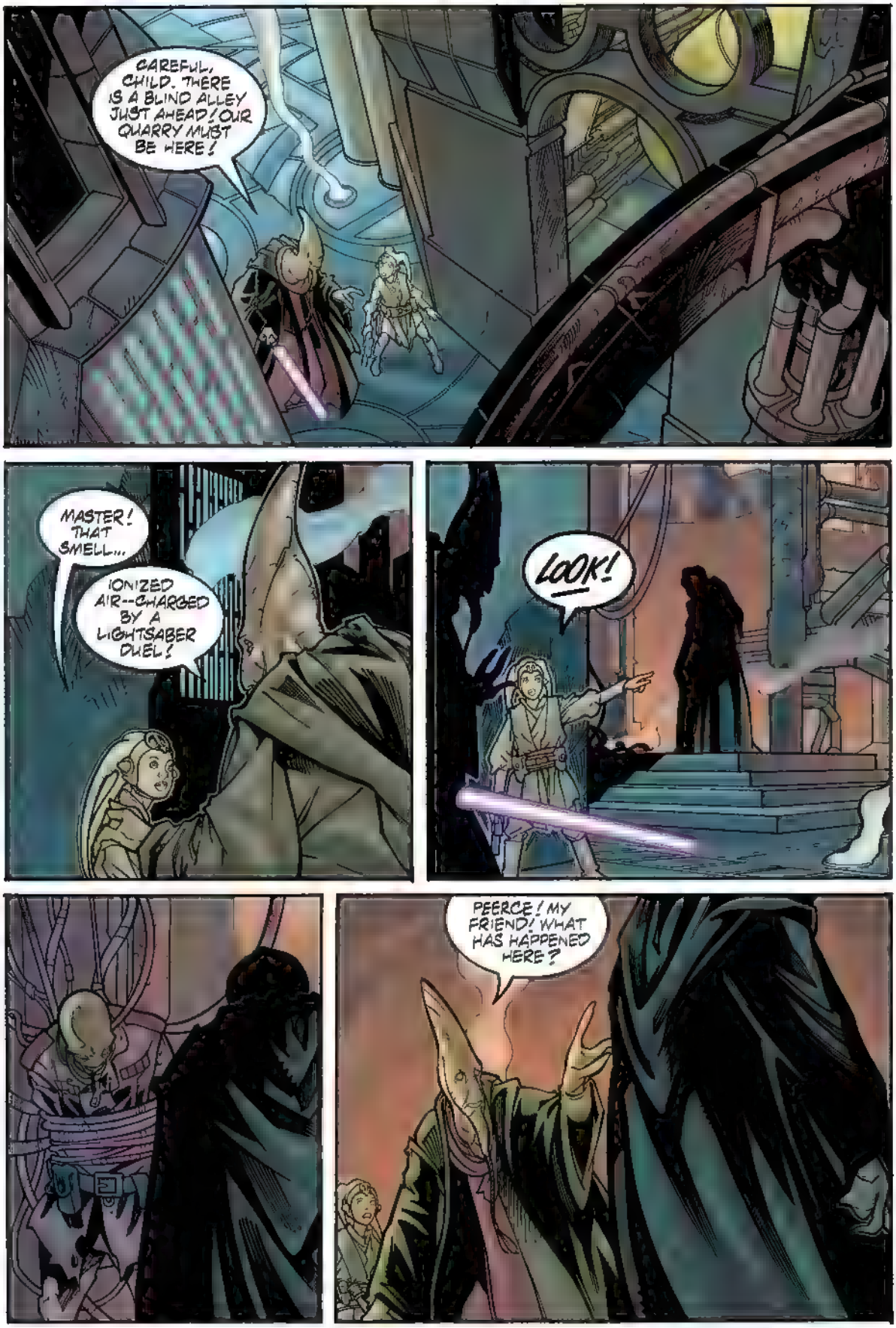
AS YOU SAY! COME, PADAWAN!




BY THE FORCE!


THE MISSING OFFICER!
DO NOT WORRY, SERVANT OF THE REPUBLIC. PEERCE THE JED. WILL SEE THAT YOU ARE TAKEN CARE OF!
IF YOU CAN, SPEAK NOW! TELL PEERCE WHO HAS DONE THIS TH NG TO YOU!
VMMMM



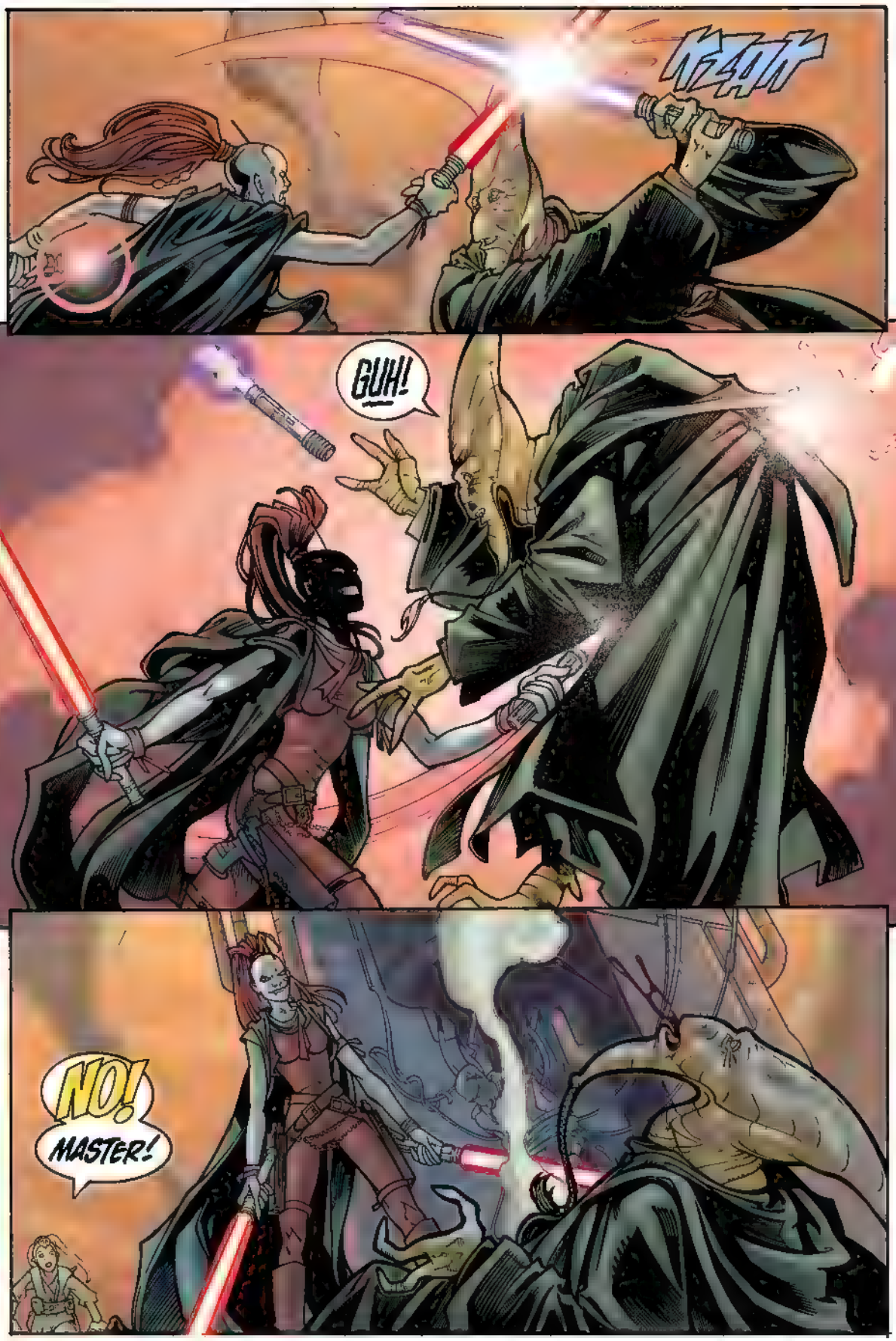

CAREFUL, CHILD. THERE IS A BLIND ALLEY JUST AHEAD! OUR QUARRY MUST BE HERE!
MASTER! THAT SMELL...
IONIZED AIR--CHARGED BY A LIGHTSABER DUEL!
LOOK!
PEERCE! MY FRIEND! WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?

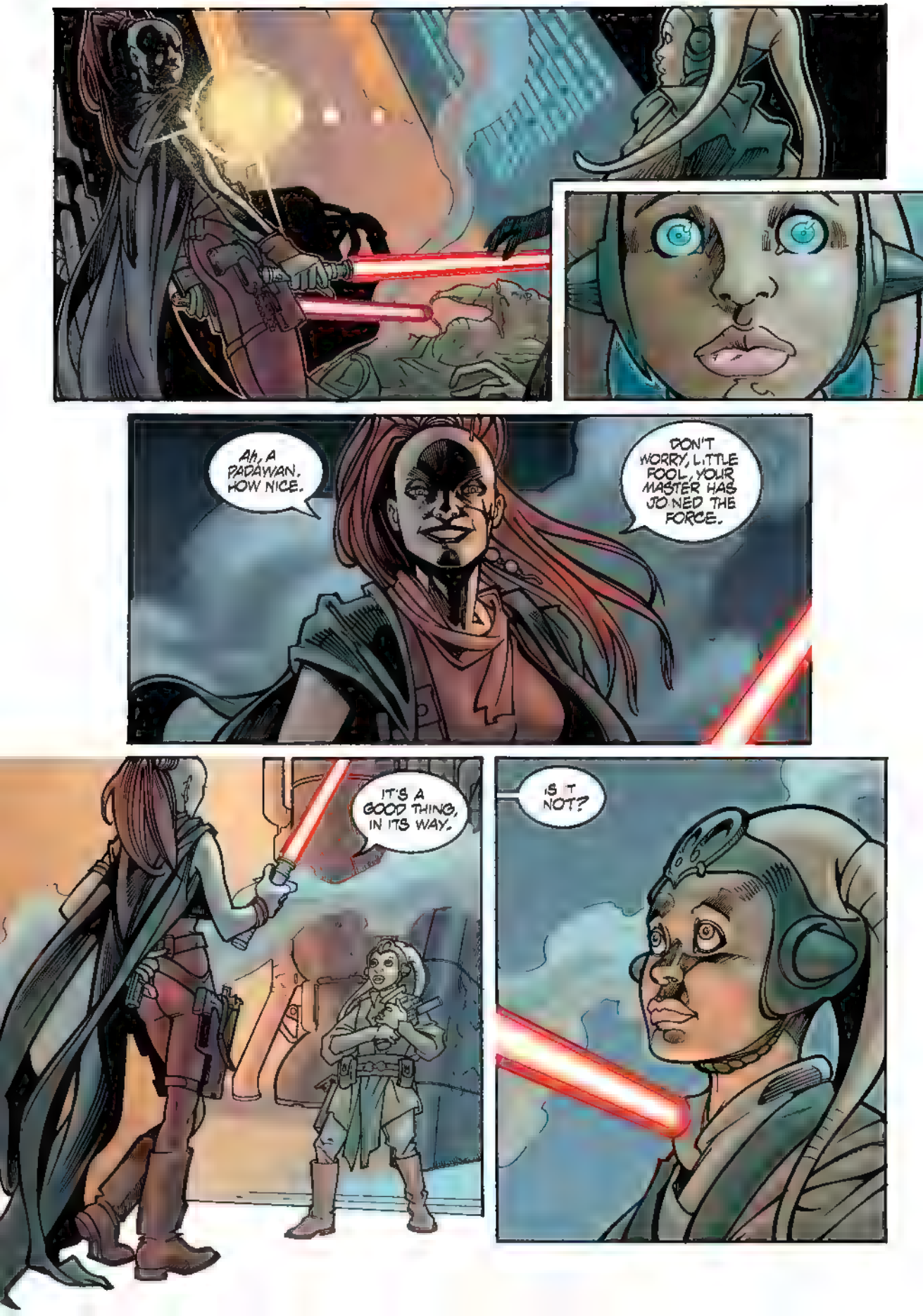
HELLO, JEDI.
LOOKING FOR ME?

KVASH
AURRA SING! AWAY, MURDEROUS BEAST!
SO! YOU'VE HEARD OF ME! GOOD!
ONE SHOULD KNOW HIS KILLER'S NAME!

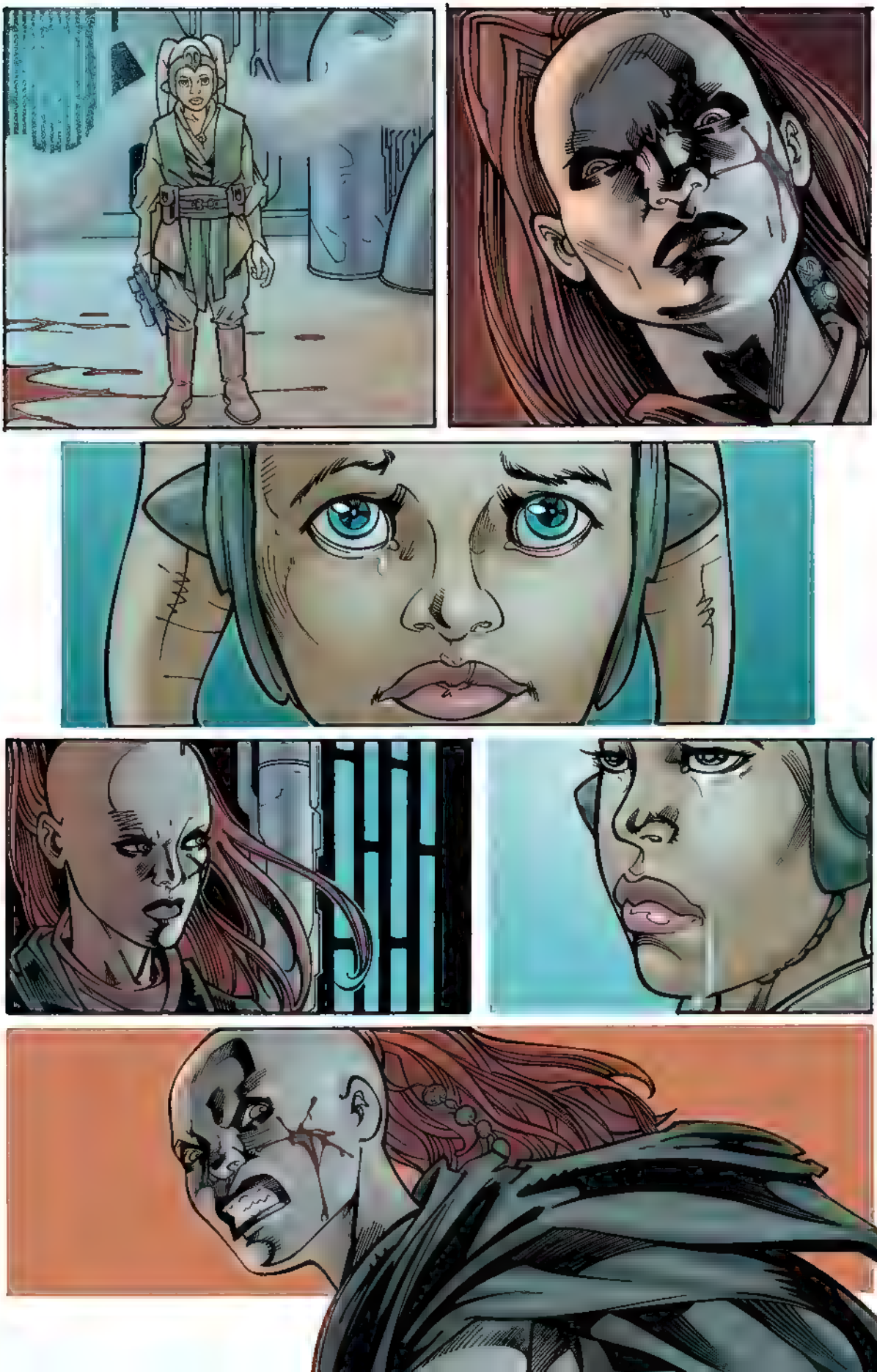
ZAK
VMMM
KVASH
VMMMM

YOU CUT ME.
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
I'M GOING TO ENJOY KILLING YOU, JEDI.
CD!!


KRAK
GUH!
NO!
MASTER!


Ah, a padawan. How nice.
Don't worry, little fool, your master has joined the force.
It's a good thing, in its way.
Is it not?

SOMEONE PAID ME VERY WELL TO SLAY YOUR MASTER AND HIS FRIEND.
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT? I WOULD HAVE DONE IT FOR NOTHING.
LOOK AT YOU! SCRAWNY WAIF! HAVEN'T EVEN BUILT YOUR FIRST LIGHTSABER YET!
DON'T WORRY, RUNT. AURRA WON'T FORGET YOU.
GO! MOURN YOUR DEAR MASTER! FIND ANOTHER AND LEARN YOUR LESSONS WELL.
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL BECOME A JEDI KNIGHT.
THEN AURRA WILL KILL YOU, TOO.



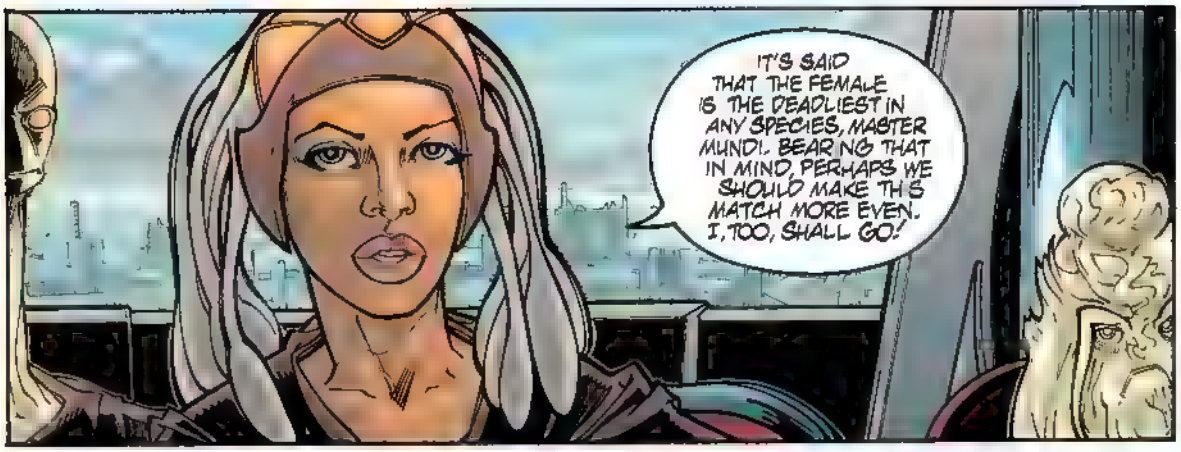
Morning. The Council Chamber of the Jedi Temple.
Two Jedi, slain on Coruscant itself?
Yes, Master Piell-- within the very shadows of the Temple.
She is in the care of our physicians. It will take many months to free her mind of the horror she's witnessed.
And what of the padawan?
A creature of darkness and destruction this Aurra Sing is.
Perhaps. There's more to her purpose than assassination. Why does she hate the Jedi so?
And how did she become so strong? She cut down two Jedi and a squad of Republic peace officers!
Truly. Her powers are great. The dark side must be strong in her.
No--not yet. I met her, remember--on Tatooine. I don't know why, or how, but she is neither a disciple of the light nor the dark.
She is somewhere in between. An assassin, perhaps...
...but not a random murderer.

DARK WOMAN, YOU WERE NOT ASKED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.
BUT A KILLER, NONETHELESS!
YOU KNEW THAT I WOULD COME, MASTER WINDU. HOW COULD I NOT?
I WILL TRACK THIS CREATURE NAMED AURRA SING, AND END THE HORROR THAT RIDES HER SHADOW!
WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHILE SHE WAS IN YOUR CARE. SHE WAS YOUR STUDENT--BUT HER FAILINGS ARE NOT YOURS. OF THAT WE'RE SURE.
YOU WILL NOT.
THEN YOU ARE MORE CERTAIN THAN I.
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR YOU NOT TO FOLLOW HER.
IF YOU FACE HER, MANY FEELINGS WILL GUIDE YOUR WEAPON...REMORSE...UNCERTAINTY...A DESIRE TO STILL A VOICE THAT TELLS YOU THAT YOU FAILED HER... THE JEDI ORDER... YOURSELF.
AURRA SING IS A GHOST THAT HAS HAUNTED YOU FOR TOO LONG.

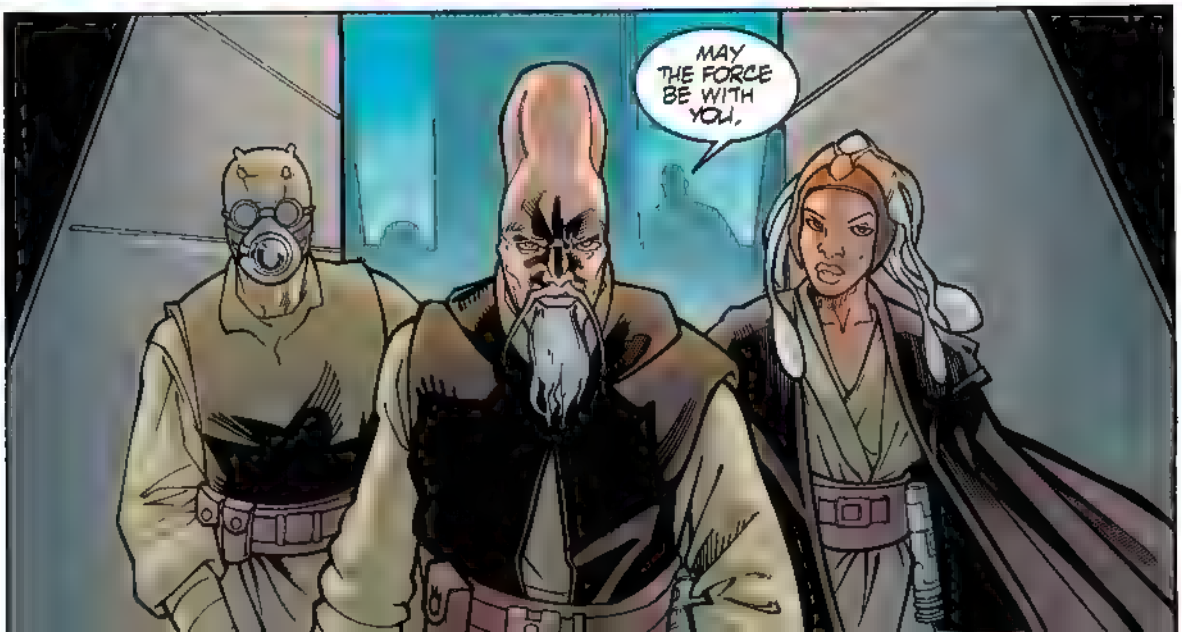
CAN YOU DENY THESE CHARGES, JEDI?
ONLY IF I WERE ON TRIAL. I AM NOT. THE WOMAN CALLED AURRA SING IS THE CRIMINAL HERE.
YOUR REQUEST--YOUR DEMAND--IS DENIED.
AND YOU SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE COUNCIL IN DENYING ME THIS MISSION?
KI-ADI-MUNDI?

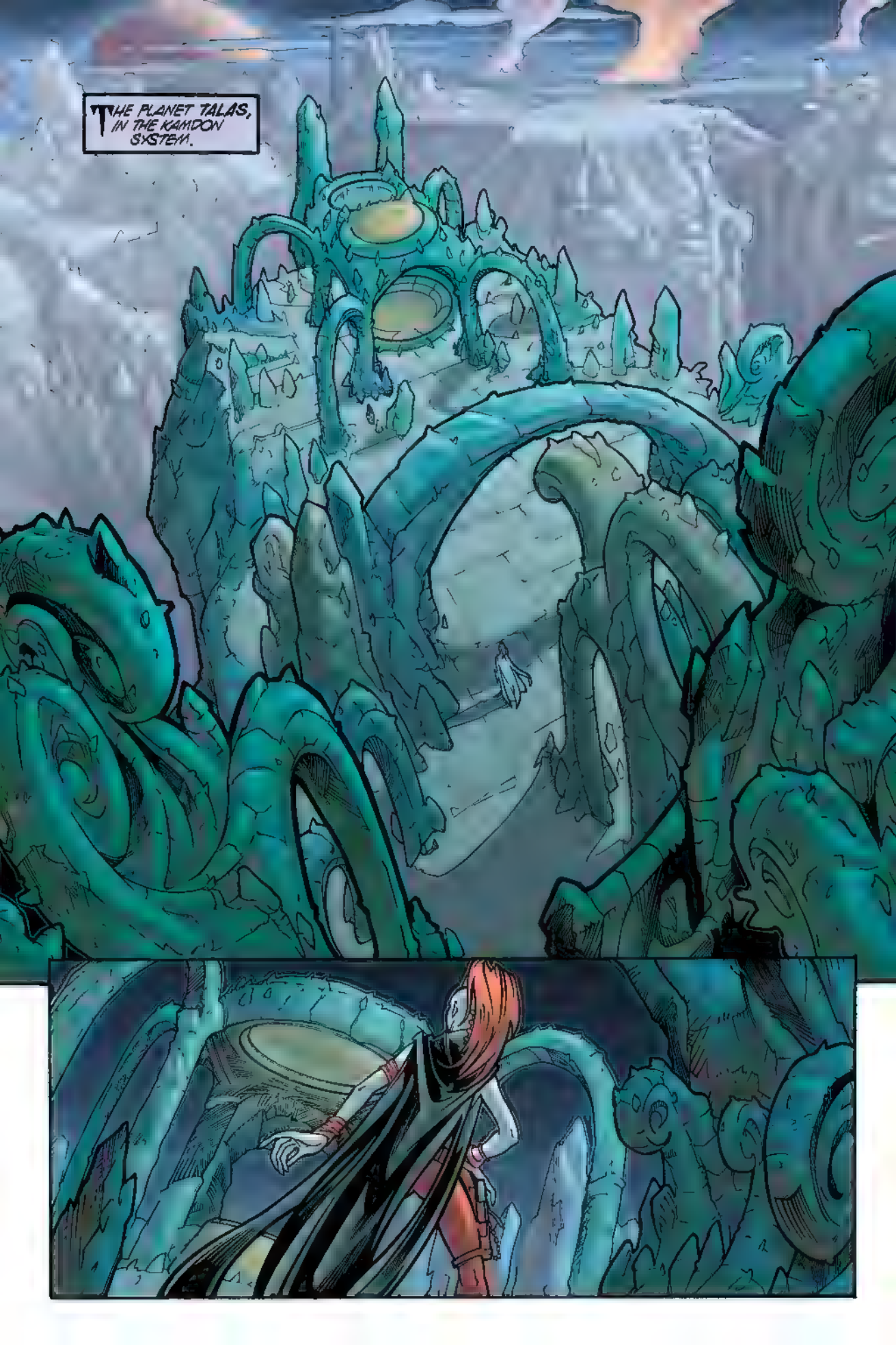
I MUST STAND BY THE SENIOR COUNCILOR'S RULING.
HOWEVER, I VOLUNTEER TO GO IN MY FIRST TEACHER'S STEAD.
AND I, MASTERS.
FOR THE BOY TO GO. IS IT WISE? KILLED THE LAD'S FATHER DID THIS AURRA SING.
I DO NOT SEEK VENGEANCE. I SEEK JUSTICE.
AURRA SING HAS KILLED JEDI. SHE WILL KILL MORE IF SHE IS NOT STOPPED.
EASY TO SPEAK NOW, ARE THESE WORDS. SAY THE SAME, WOULD YOU, IF CROSSING LIGHT-SABERS WITH HER, YOU WERE? FEEL THE SAME, WOULD YOU, IF INTO HER EYES YOU WERE LOOK-NG?
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MASTER, IF YOU THINK THAT MY WORDS COME EASILY, YOU ARE WRONG.
I HAVE SEARCHED MY HEART. THE WISH FOR REVENGE DOES NOT MOTIVATE ME.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE, PADAWAN HETT?

BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT HAVE DRIVEN MY FATHER. I WILL NOT PROFANE HIS MEMORY WITH SUCH BASE DESIRES.
KI-ADI-MUNDI?
I KNOW A'SHARAD'S HEART. HE TELLS THE TRUTH.
I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT, MY FRIEND. IF YOU AREN'T, THE ARMS OF THE DARK SIDE WILL BE THROWN WIDE TO WELCOME THE BOY.
I'LL NOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN. MASTER SHARAD HETT ENTRUSTED ME WITH TEACHING HIS SON. I'LL REMAIN WORTHY OF THAT TRUST.
THAT WHICH WE INTEND IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT HAPPENS, KI. REMEMBER THAT.
IT IS A LESSON THAT I, MYSELF, LEARNED ONLY TOO WELL.
SO BE IT, KI-ADI-MUNDI. THE CHARGE IS YOURS. AURRA SING HAS NO DOUBT FLED. A CRUISER WILL BE PREPARED FOR YOU.


IT'S SAID THAT THE FEMALE IS THE DEADLIEST IN ANY SPECIES, MASTER MUNDI. BEARING THAT IN MIND, PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE THIS MATCH MORE EVEN. I, TOO, SHALL GO!

A GOOD IDEA, ADI GALLIA-- AS MUCH FOR YOUR MASTERY OF DIPLOMACY AS FOR YOUR ABILITY WITH THE LIGHT-SABER.
THE COUNCIL GIVES YOU ITS LEAVE, MY FRIENDS. FIND THIS ASSASSIN AND STOP HER.

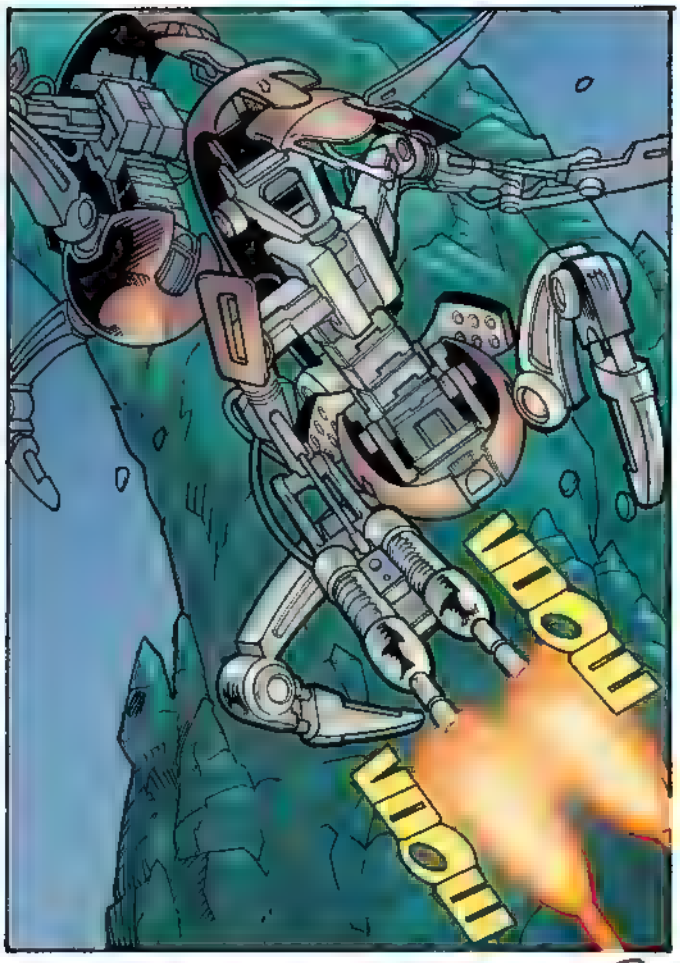

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

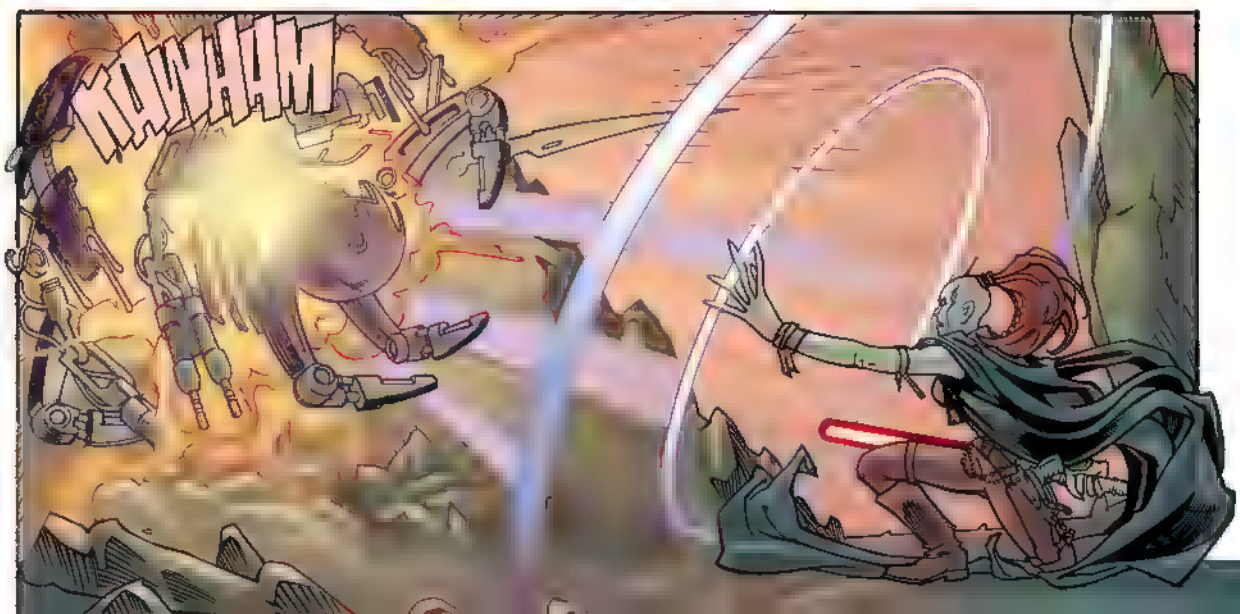

THE PLANET TALAS, IN THE KAMDON SYSTEM.

VRRR
CHNK
CHNK
VRRR

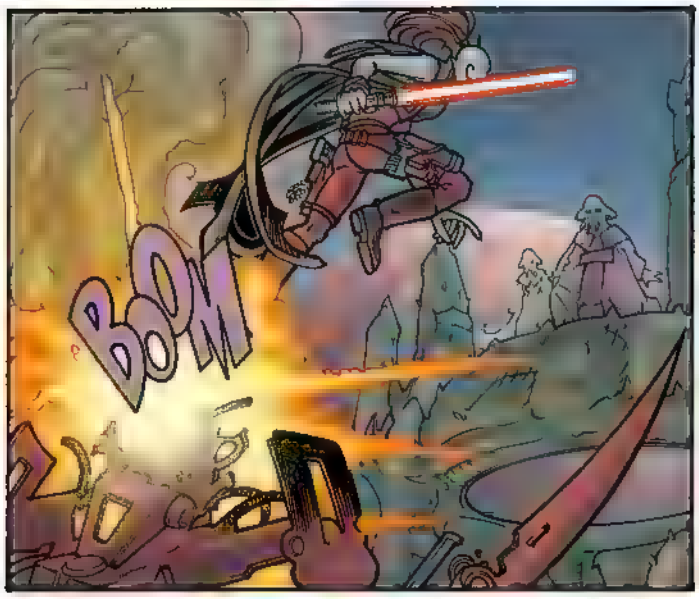
VHMMMM
WELCOME.
YES. WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN, AURRA SING.
DO BE CAREFUL..
IT'S A RATHER DANGEROUS PLACE.

VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
ZAP


VIIOW
VIIOW

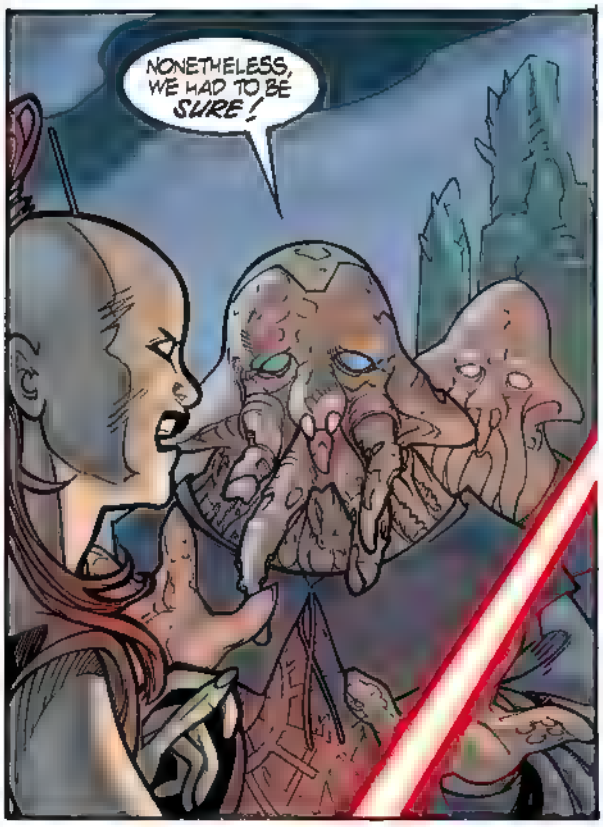

KAWHAM

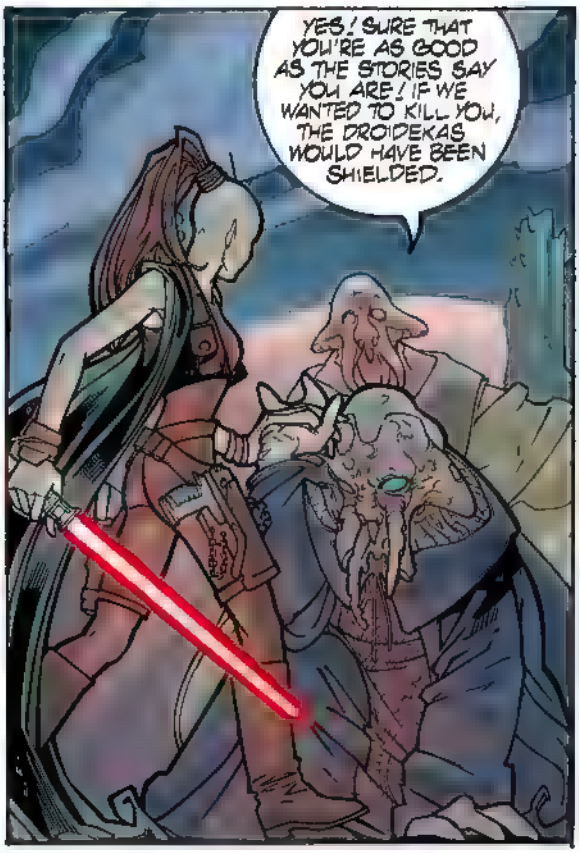
SWISH
COLICOID TOYS! THEY'RE NOT THE ONLY DANGER HERE!
YOU LIED TO ME! YOU SUMMONED ME HERE TO KILL ME!
BADOOM


BOOM

NO! NO!
IT WAS ONLY A TEST!

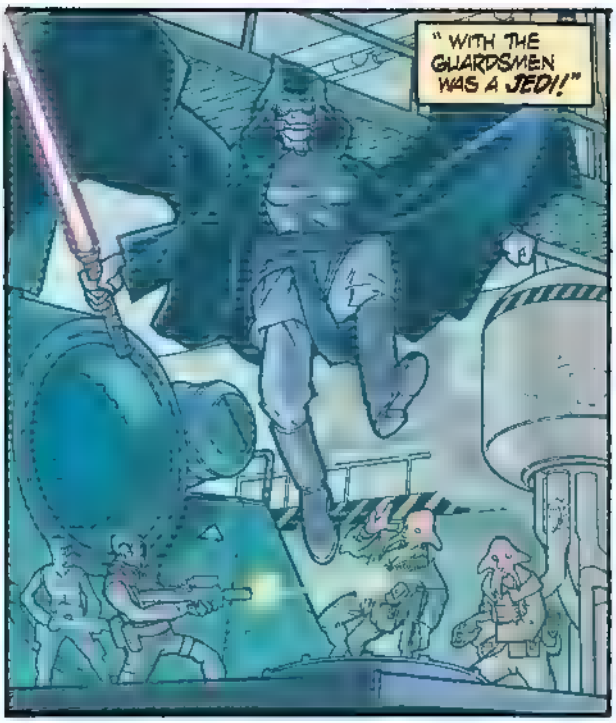
I DON'T LIKE TESTS!

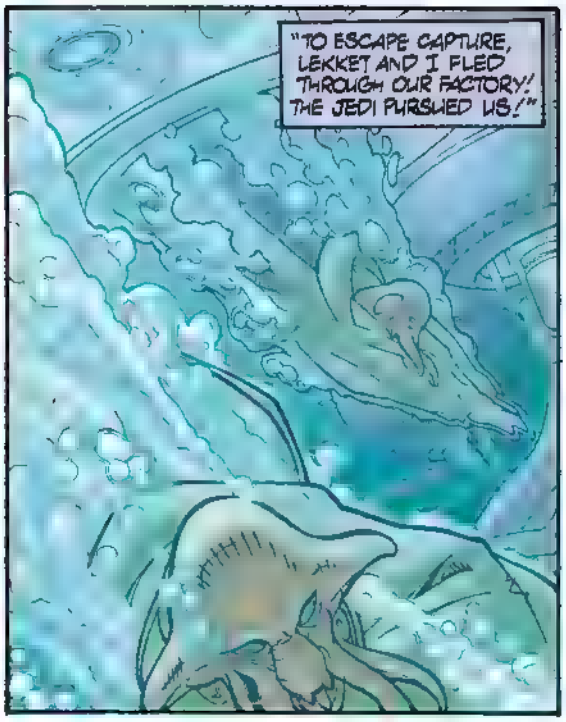

NONETHELESS, WE HAD TO BE SURE!

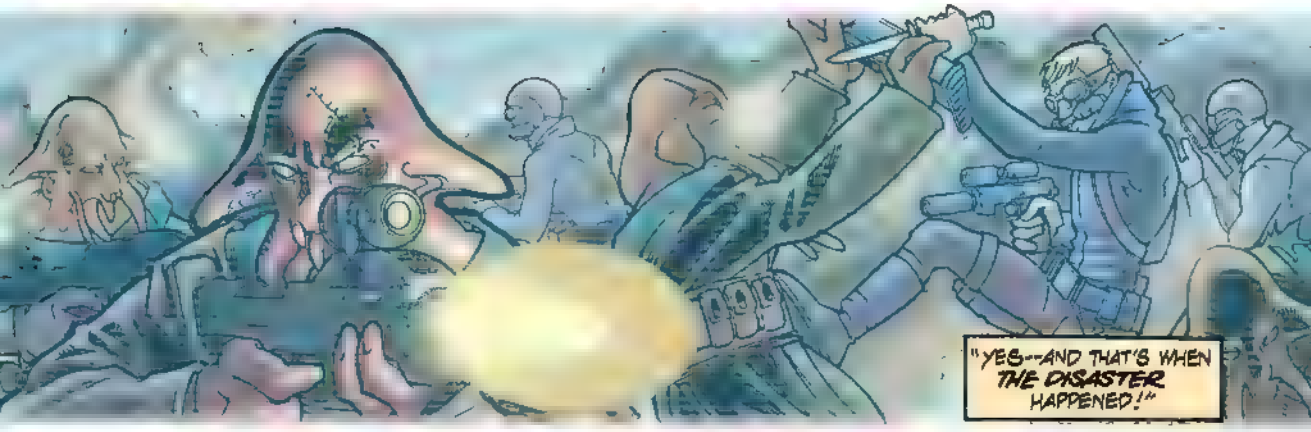

YES! SURE THAT YOU'RE AS GOOD AS THE STORIES SAY YOU ARE! IF WE WANTED TO KILL YOU, THE DROIDEKAS WOULD HAVE BEEN SHIELDED.

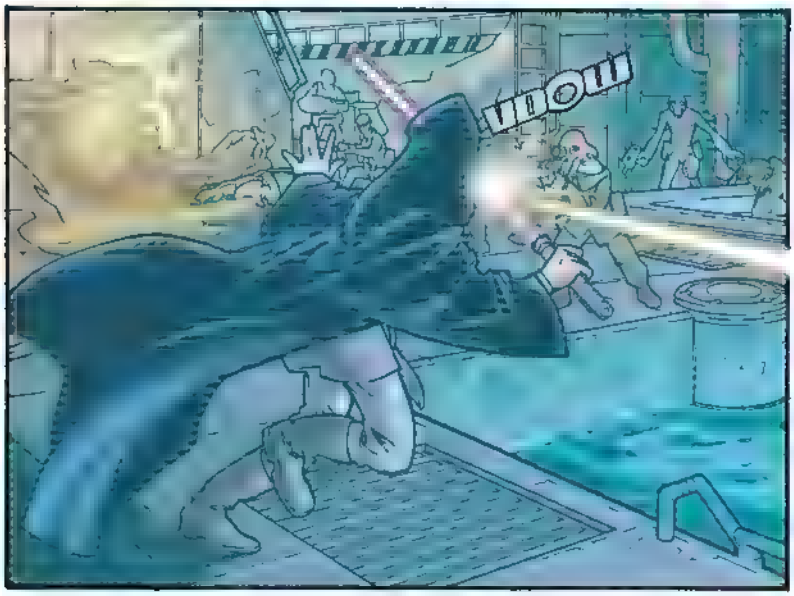
AN EXPENSIVE TRIAL. YOU MUST HAVE PAID THE COLICOIDS WELL.
WITH THE MONEY YOU PAID FOR THOSE DROIDEKAS, YOU COULD HAVE BOUGHT A PLANET!
WE ALREADY HAVE ONE OF THOSE! YOU'RE STANDING ON IT!
ALTHOUGH OUR RELOCATION HERE WAS THROUGH NO CHOICE OF OUR OWN!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE TASTED THE SWEET WATERS OF OUR MON CALAMARI HOMEWORLD.
WE MISS IT SO.
TOUCHING. HOWEVER, I'M HERE FOR YOUR MONEY, NOT TO LISTEN TO YOUR SIMPERING.
WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME?
I AM TALLET, AND THIS IS MY EGG-MATE LEKKET.
ONCE, WE WERE HONORED CITIZENS OF THE FLOATING CITY OF HELRKEA...
...AND THE MOST PROSPEROUS QUARREN IN THE CALAMARI SYSTEM!

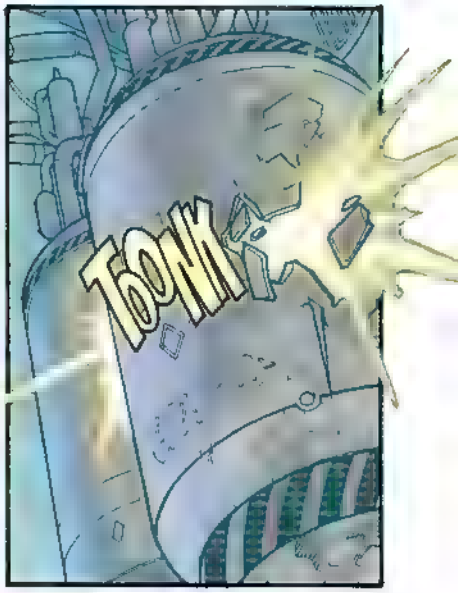
I WAS NOT ALWAYS AS YOU SEE ME NOW.
STRONG AND WHOLE OF BODY WAS I.
LONG, SUPPLE, AND PROUD WERE MY FACIAL FEATURES.
ADORED BY ALL QUARREN FEMALES AND ENVIED BY ALL YOUNG QUARREN MALES, THEY WERE.
I'M SURE. GET TO THE POINT.
WE WERE IN BUSINESS WITH A FELLOW QUARREN NAMED TIKKES.
HIS SPAWN BE EATEN BY KRAKANA!
TIKKES, THE SENATOR?
YES. SENATOR NOW, BUT NOT ALWAYS.
UNBEKNOWNST TO US, TIKKES WAS SIPHONING MONEY FROM OUR ACCOUNTS INTO HIS CAMPAIGN FUND.
WHEN WE FINALLY D'SCOVERED HIS WRONGDOINGS, HE DECIDED TO ELIMINATE US BEFORE WE COULD GATHER ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST HIM.
LONG BEFORE TIKKES BECAME OUR PARTNER, WHEN WE WERE BUT YOUNG QUARREN, LEKKET AND I HAD DONE SOME SMUGGLING FOR THE HUTTS.
TIKKES UNCOVERED CERTAIN RECORDS OF THESE DEALINGS AND TURNED THEM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES!
"THE REPUBLIC GUARD STORMED OUR ENGINE FACTORY ON MON CALAMARI! CAUGHT BY SURPRISE, OUR BODYGUARDS INSTINCTIVELY TRIED TO PROTECT US!"
"A BATTLE ERUPTED! UNABLE TO STOP IT, LEKKET AND I WERE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!"


"WITH THE GUARDSMEN WAS A JEDI!"

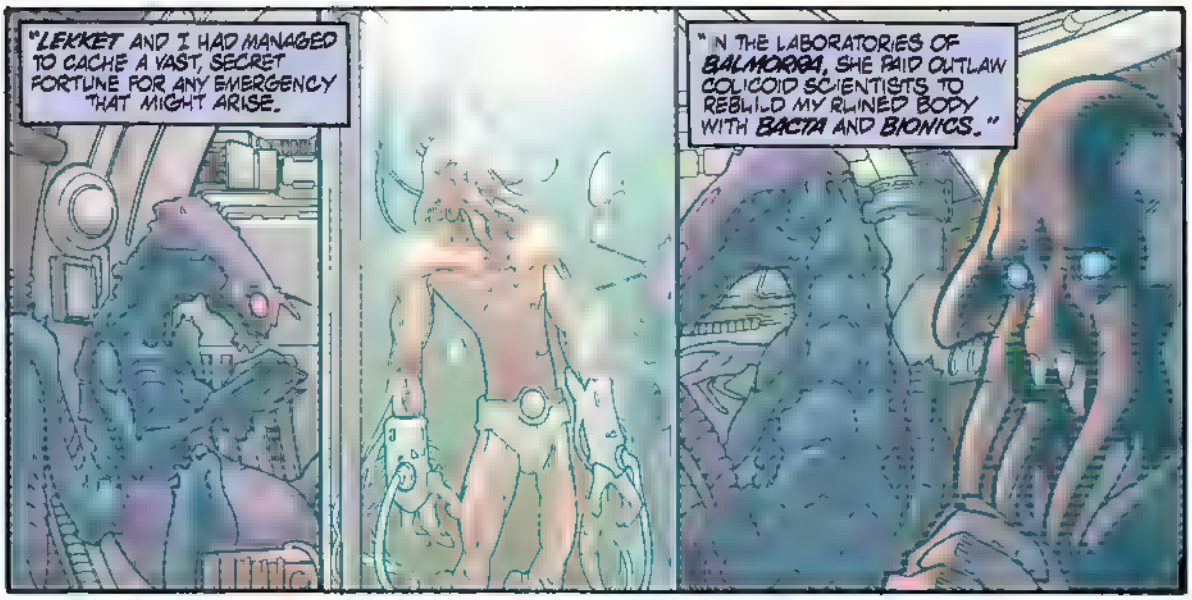

"TO ESCAPE CAPTURE, LEKKET AND I FLED THROUGH OUR FACTORY! THE JEDI PURSUED US!"

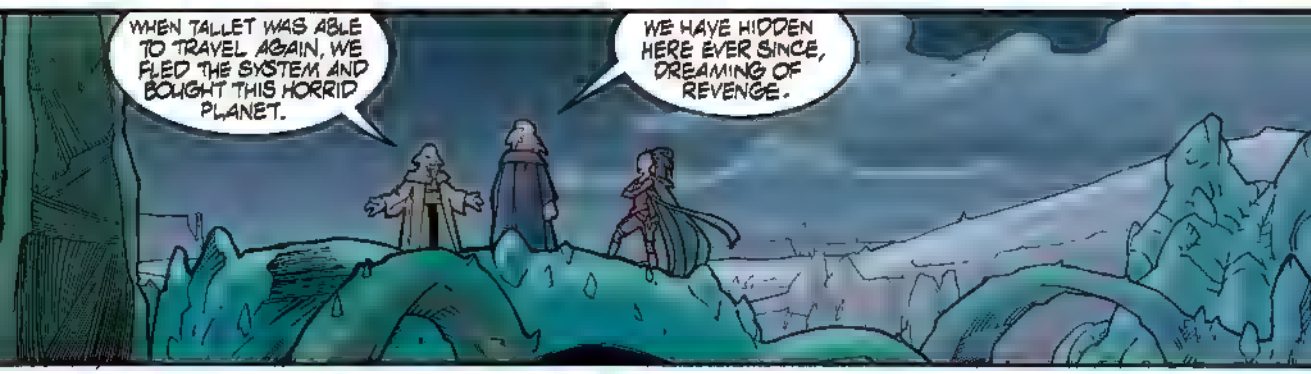

"YES--AND THAT'S WHEN THE DISASTER HAPPENED!"


VVOW

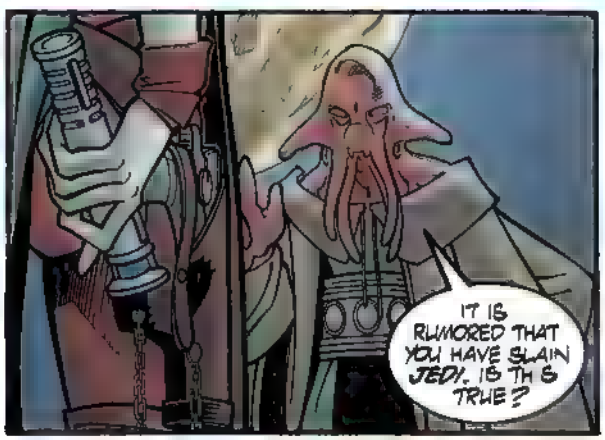

TONK

GAHH
"THE JEDI CAUSED A BLASTER BOLT TO PENETRATE A TOXIC FUEL CELL! MY POOR TALLET WAS CAUGHT IN THE FLOW, AND THE ACID-LIKE FUEL SEARED HIS FLESH!
"OUR FLIGHT WAS HIDDEN BY THE VILE CHEMICAL CLOUD. I PULLED MY BELOVED, PAIN-WRACKED EGG-MATE TO SAFETY!
"BOARDING A HIDDEN ESCAPE CRUISER, WE FLED MON CALAMARI FOREVER!"


"LEKKET AND I HAD MANAGED TO CACHE A VAST, SECRET FORTUNE FOR ANY EMERGENCY THAT MIGHT ARISE.
"IN THE LABORATORIES OF BALMORRA, SHE PAID OUTLAW COLICOID SCIENTISTS TO REBUILD MY RUINED BODY WITH BACTA AND BIONICS."

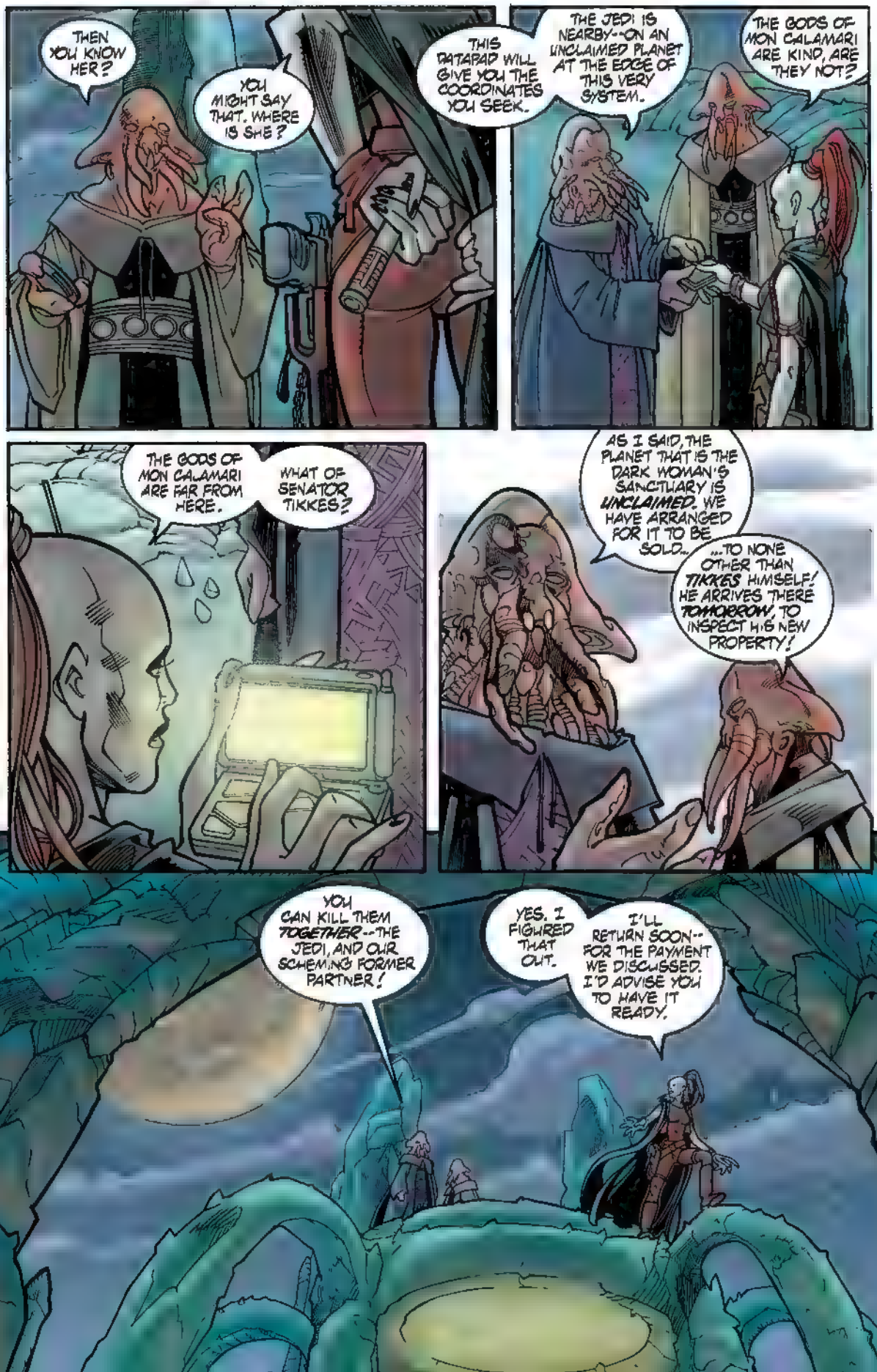

WHEN TALLET WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL AGAIN, WE FLED THE SYSTEM AND BOUGHT THIS HORRID PLANET.
WE HAVE HIDDEN HERE EVER SINCE, DREAMING OF REVENGE.

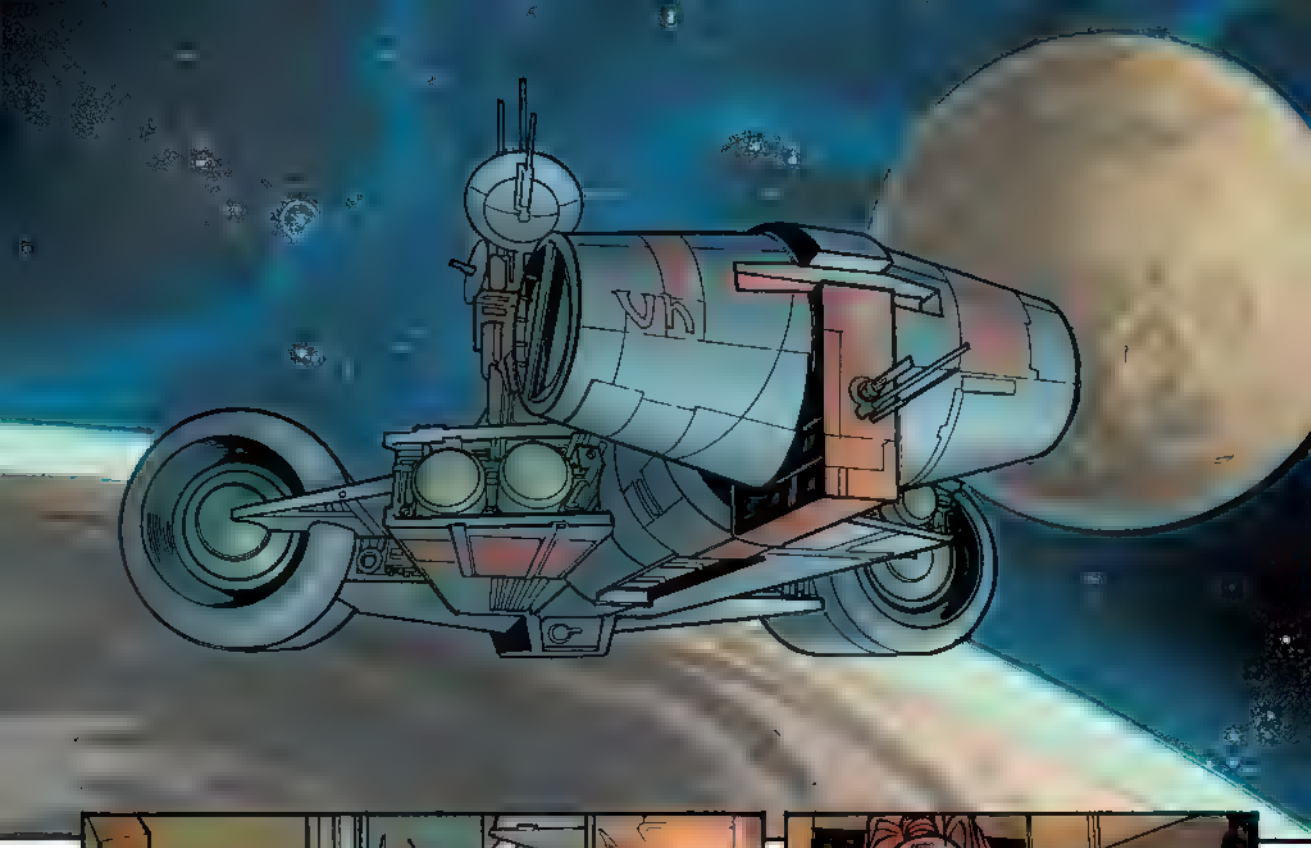
REVENGE, AND I AM YOUR INSTRUMENT FOR THIS?
THINK AGAIN. I'M A BOUNTY HUNTER, AN AVENGER--BUT NOT A MERE PAID ASSASSIN.

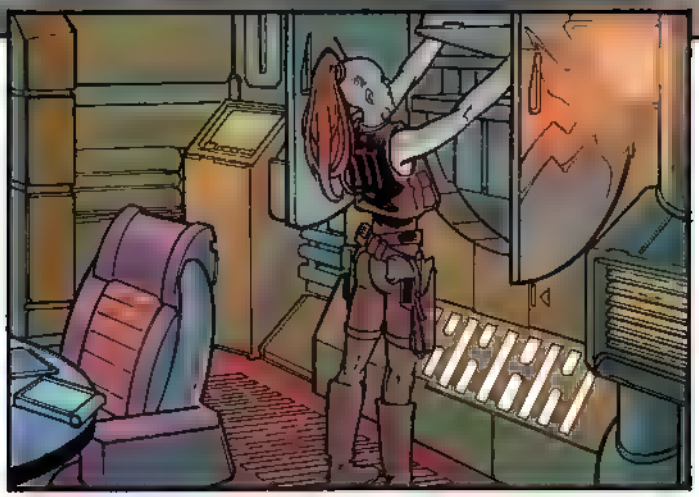

IT IS RUMORED THAT YOU HAVE SLAIN JEDI. IS THIS TRUE?

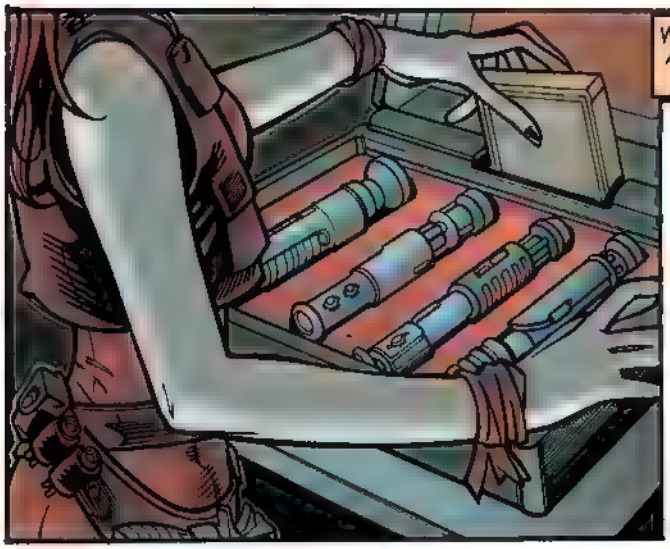
EVERY RUMOR HOLDS GRAINS OF TRUTH. OR SO I'VE HEARD.

IT HAS TAKEN US A LONG TIME, BUT WE HAVE FOUND THE JEDI WHO HELPED TIKKES RUIN US--THE JEDI WHO DID THIS TO ME!
WE WOULD ENJOY HER DEATH. WE THINK THAT YOU WOULD ENJOY IT, TOO.
PERHAPS. I'M EASILY ENTERTAINED.
WHO IS THIS JEDI? WHERE MIGHT I FIND HER?
SHE IS A STRANGE ONE--EVEN AMONG THE JEDI. HER DEVOTION TO THE FORCE IS SUCH THAT SHE EVEN RENOUNCED HER OWN NAME AS A SIGN OF HER SELFLESS FEALTY.
SHE IS KNOWN ONLY AS...
...THE DARK WOMAN!
THE DARK WOMAN.


THEN YOU KNOW HER?
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT. WHERE IS SHE?
THIS DATAPAD WILL GIVE YOU THE COORDINATES YOU SEEK.
THE JEDI IS NEARBY--ON AN UNCLAIMED PLANET AT THE EDGE OF THIS VERY SYSTEM.
THE GODS OF MON CALAMARI ARE KIND, ARE THEY NOT?
THE GODS OF MON CALAMARI ARE FAR FROM HERE.
WHAT OF SENATOR TIKKES?
AS I SAID, THE PLANET THAT IS THE DARK WOMAN'S SANCTUARY IS UNCLAIMED. WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR IT TO BE SOLD...
...TO NONE OTHER THAN TIKKES HIMSELF! HE ARRIVES THERE TOMORROW, TO INSPECT HIS NEW PROPERTY!
YOU CAN KILL THEM TOGETHER--THE JEDI, AND OUR SCHEMING FORMER PARTNER!
YES. I FIGURED THAT OUT.
I'LL RETURN SOON--FOR THE PAYMENT WE DISCUSSED. I'D ADVISE YOU TO HAVE IT READY.

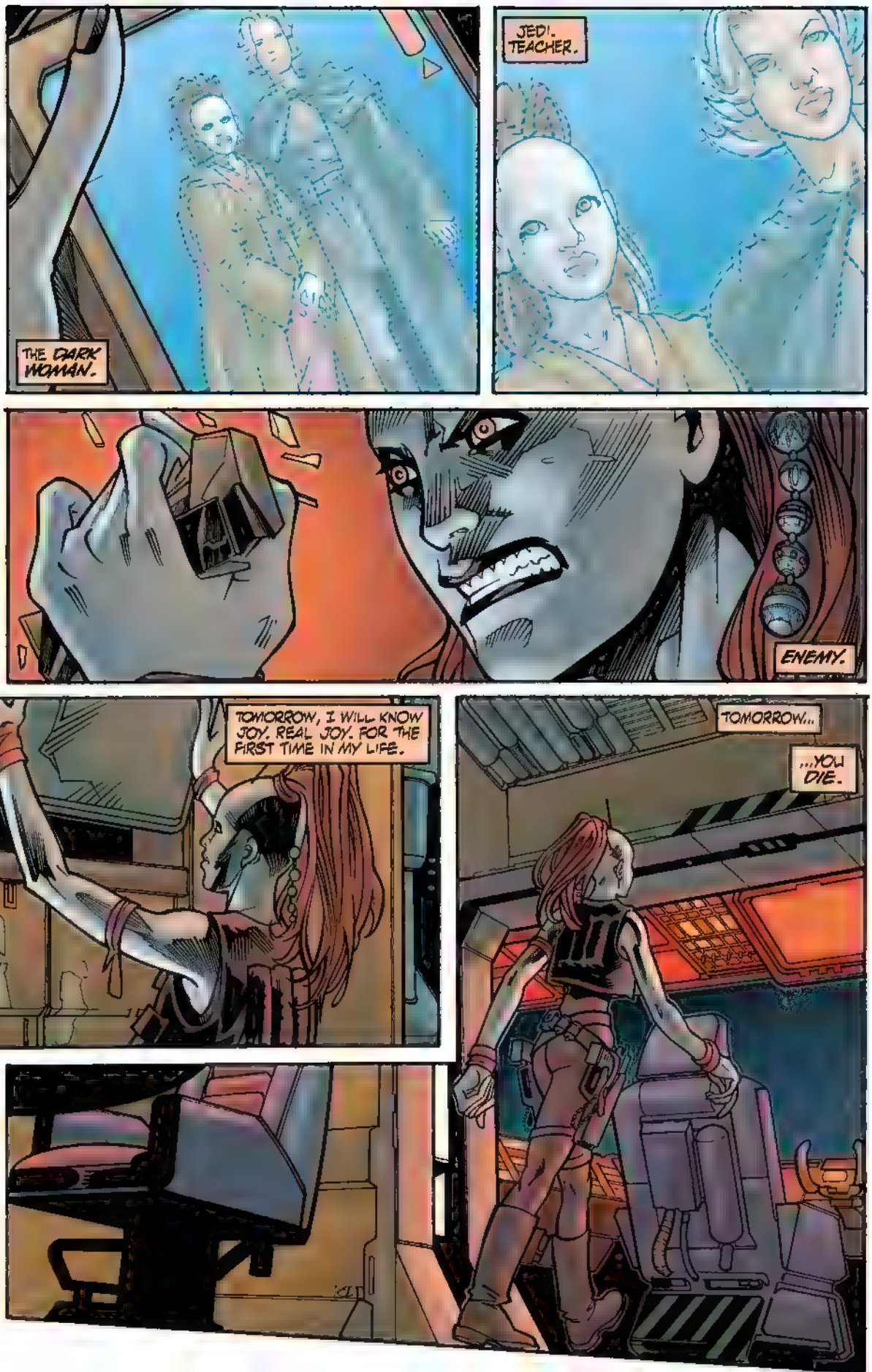


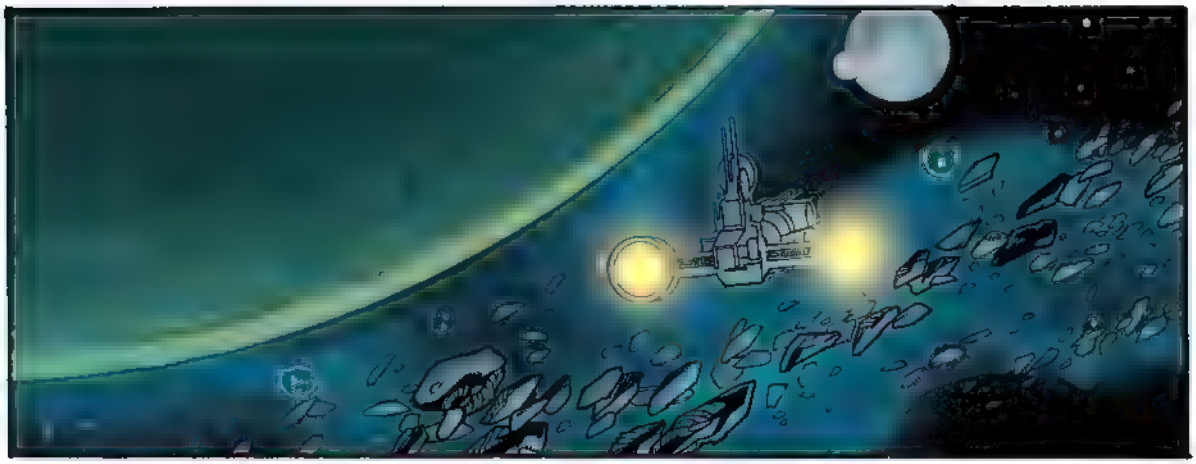


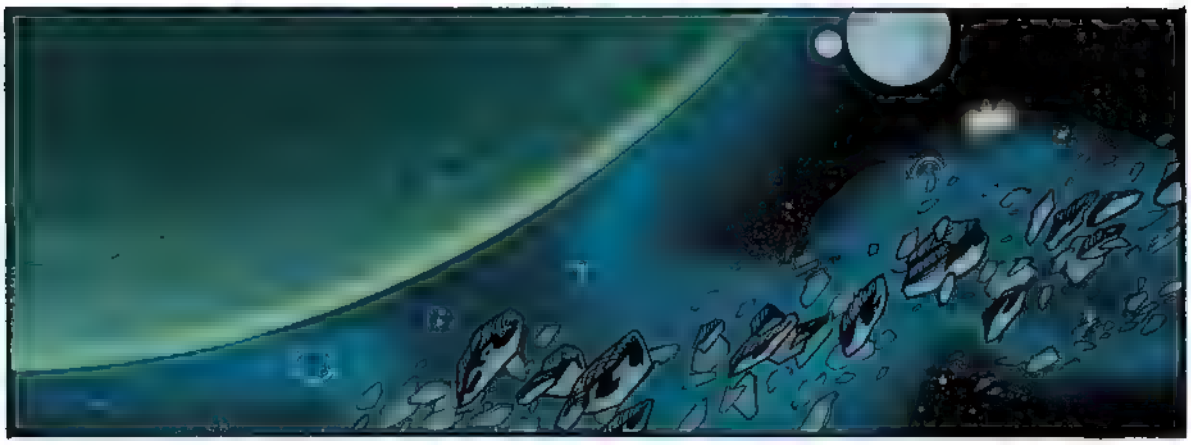


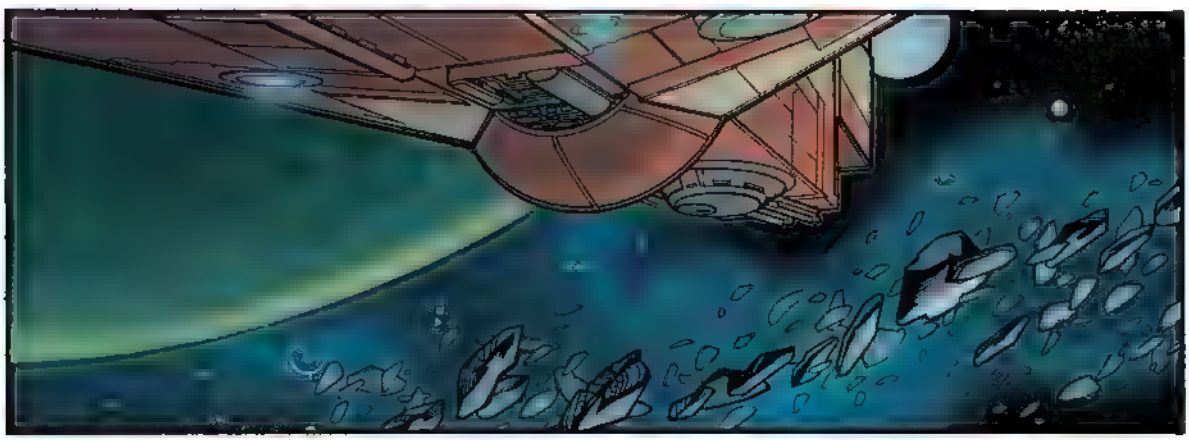
WHO COULD BELIEVE IT? AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. ALL MY SEARCHING.

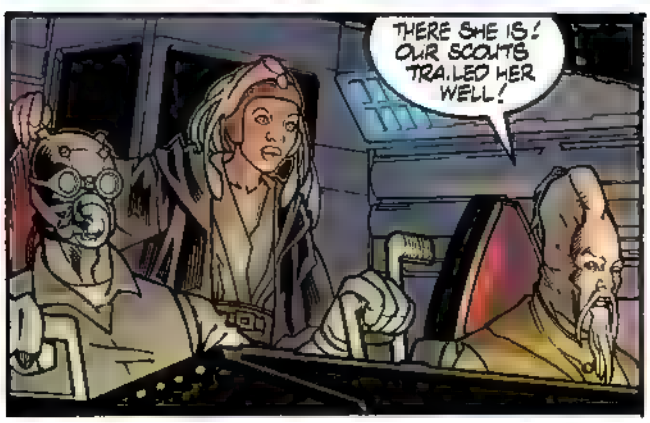
NOW, YOU FALL RIGHT INTO MY LAP.

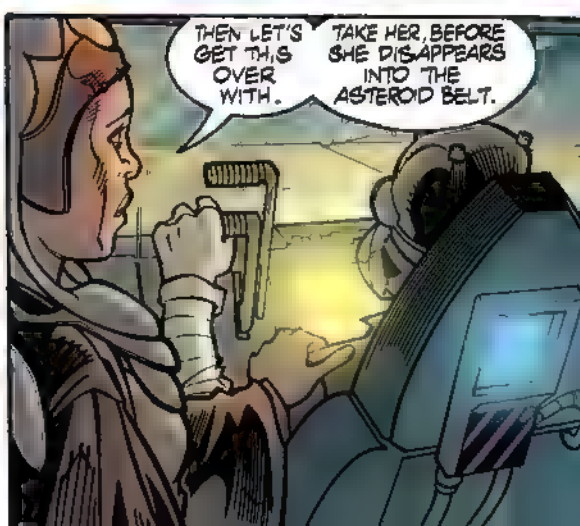

THE DARK WOMAN.
JEDI. TEACHER.
ENEMY.
TOMORROW, I WILL KNOW JOY. REAL JOY. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.
TOMORROW...
...YOU DIE.



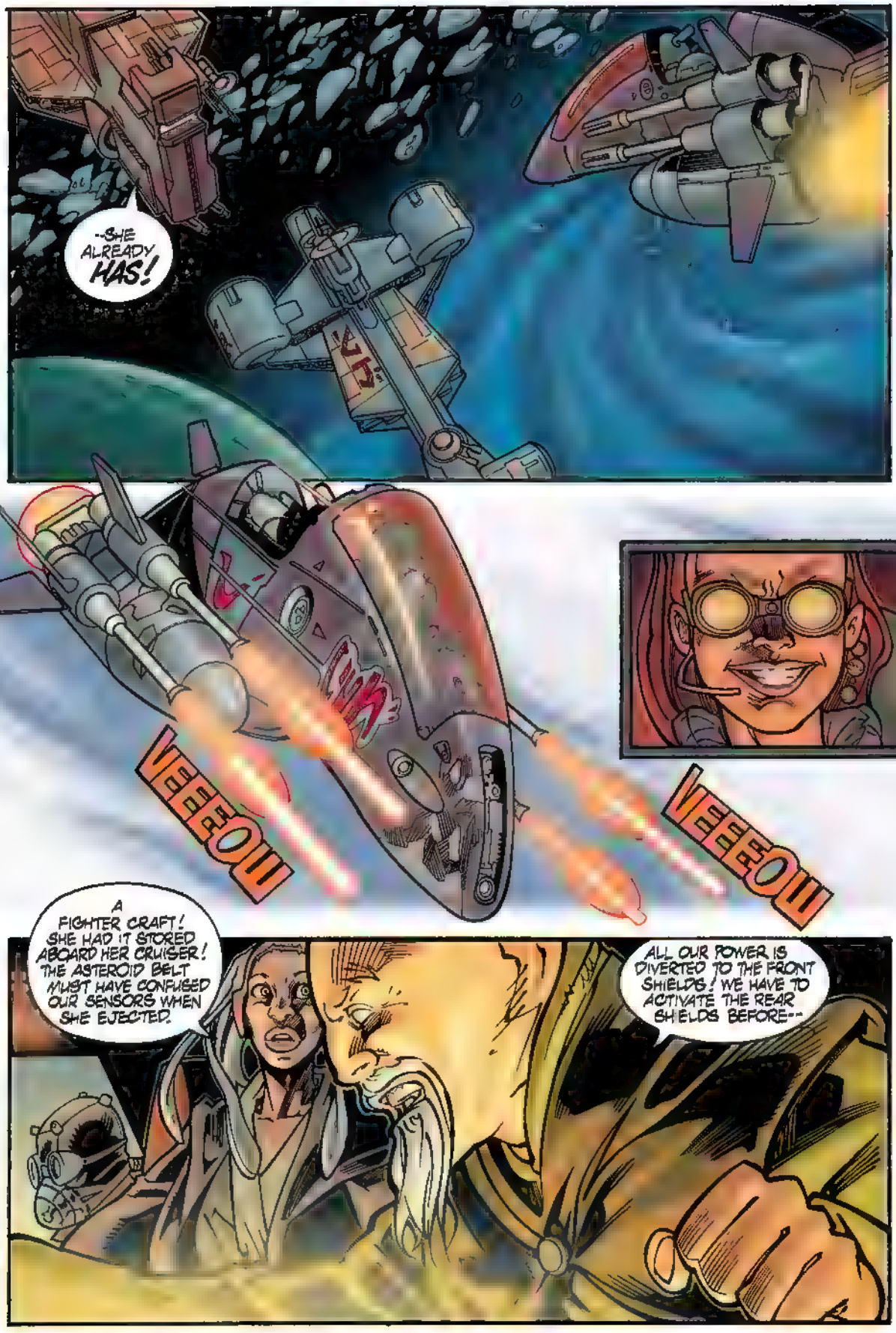


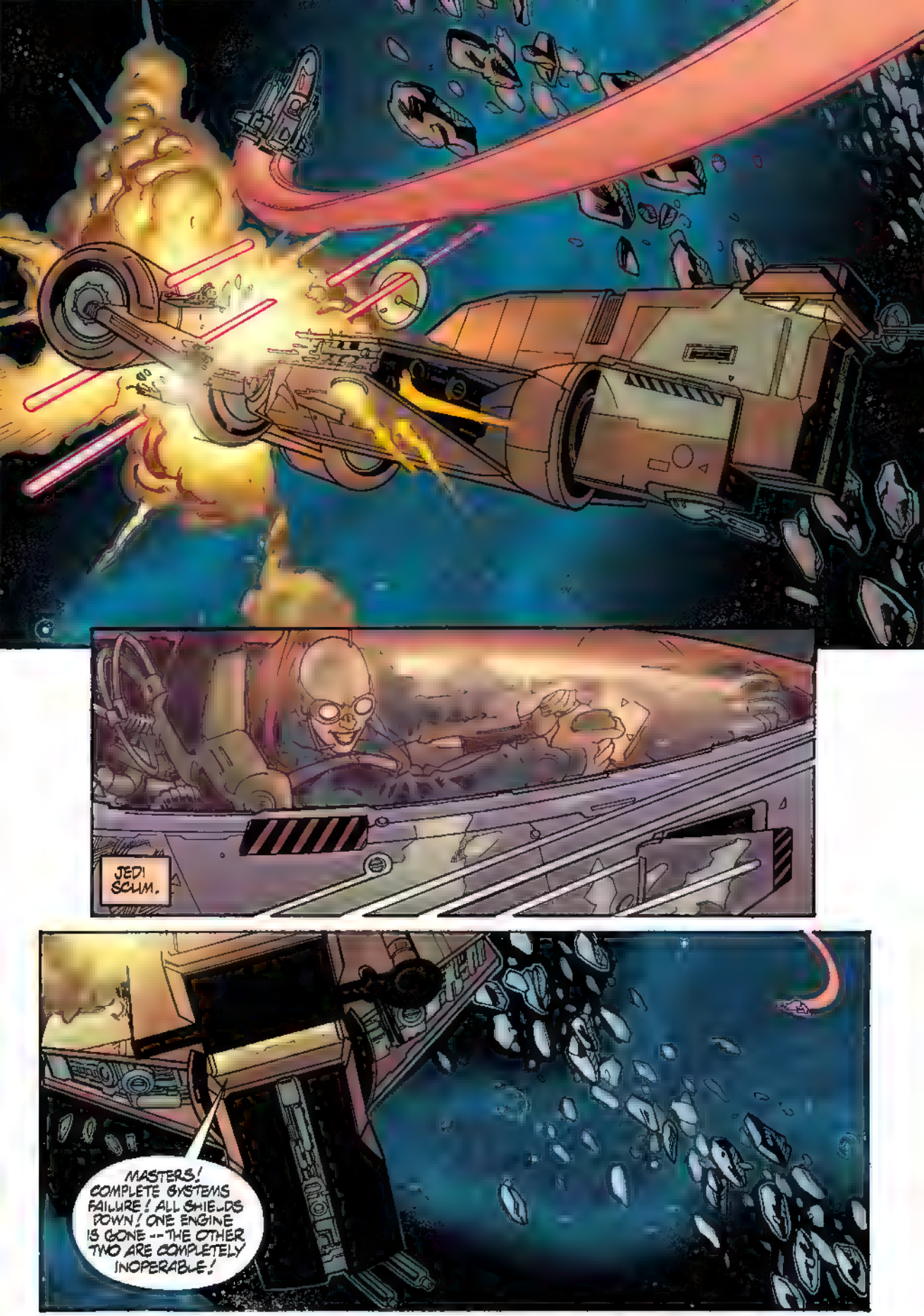



THERE SHE IS! OUR SCOUTS TRAILED HER WELL!


THEN LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH.
TAKE HER, BEFORE SHE DISAPPEARS INTO THE ASTEROID BELT.

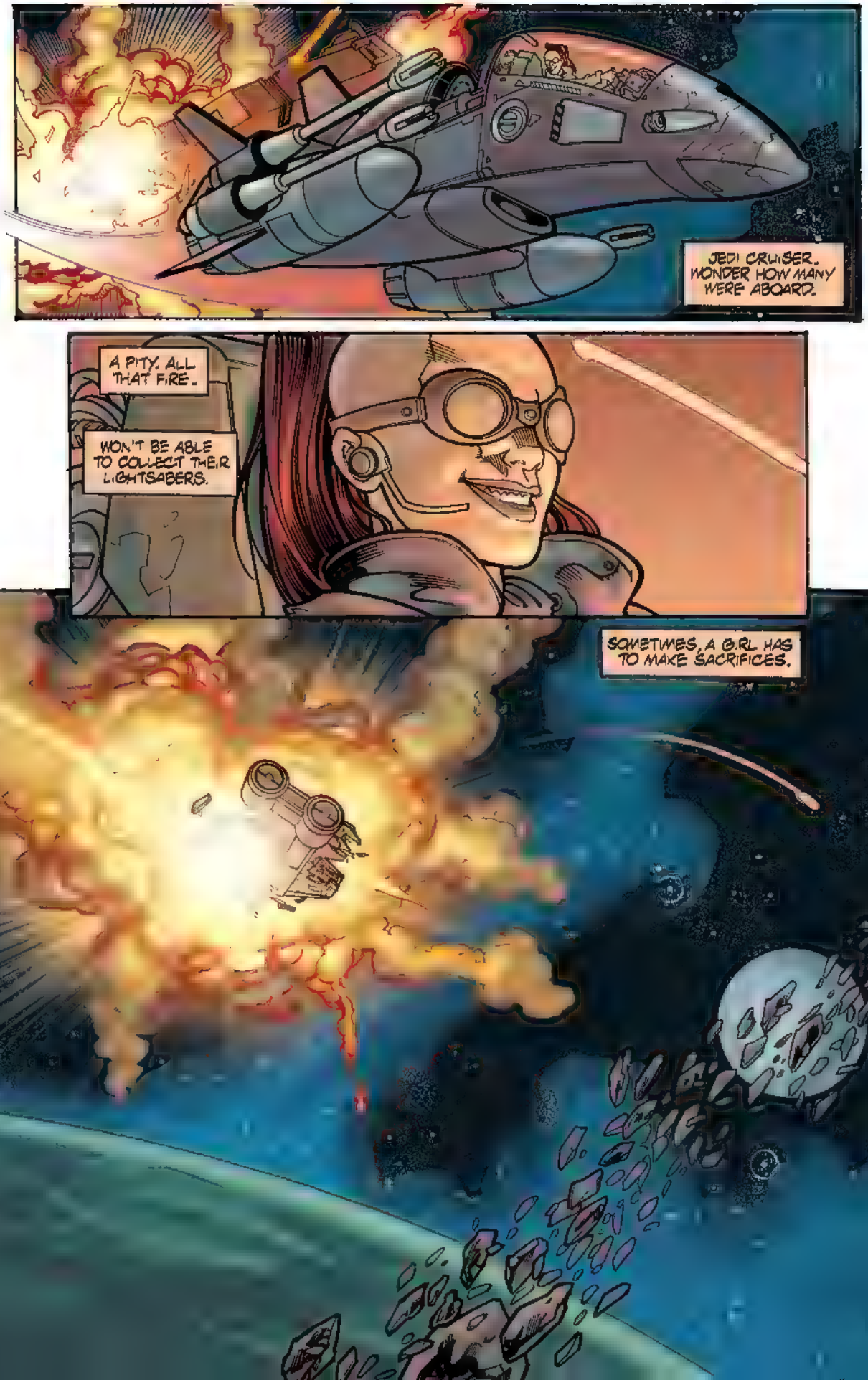
AURRA SING! THIS IS KI-ADI-MUNDI OF THE JEDI HIGH COUNCIL!
BY ORDER OF SUPREME CHANCELLOR PALPATINE, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!
OUR PROTON TORPEDOES ARE LOCKED ON YOUR CRAFT AND READY TO FIRE!
DECELERATE NOW AND GIVE YOURSELF UP, OR WE WILL HAVE TO DESTROY YOU!
SHE'S RECEIVING OUR MESSAGE, MASTER--BUT SHE ISN'T SLOWING.
THEN SHE LEAVES US NO CHOICE. GET READY TO FIRE.
NO! WAIT! SOMETHING IS WRONG! CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?
ALL THE MORE REASON TO BLAST HER NOW, BEFORE SHE HAS TIME TO OUTMANEUVER US.
MASTER KI--

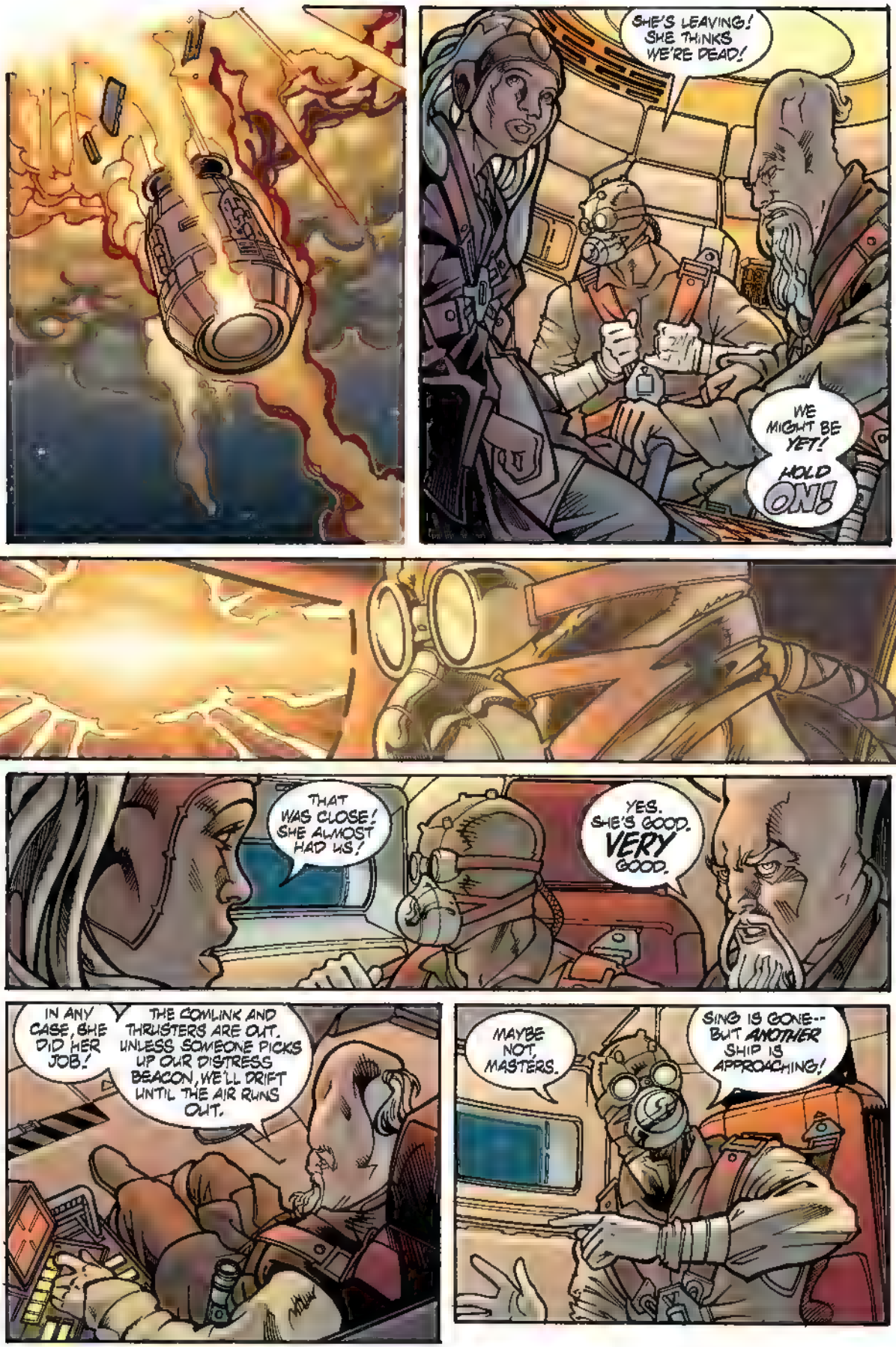

-SHE ALREADY HAS!
VEEOW
VEEOW
A FIGHTER CRAFT! SHE HAD IT STORED ABOARD HER CRUISER! THE ASTEROID BELT MUST HAVE CONFUSED OUR SENSORS WHEN SHE EJECTED.
ALL OUR POWER IS DIVERTED TO THE FRONT SHIELDS! WE HAVE TO ACTIVATE THE REAR SHIELDS BEFORE--

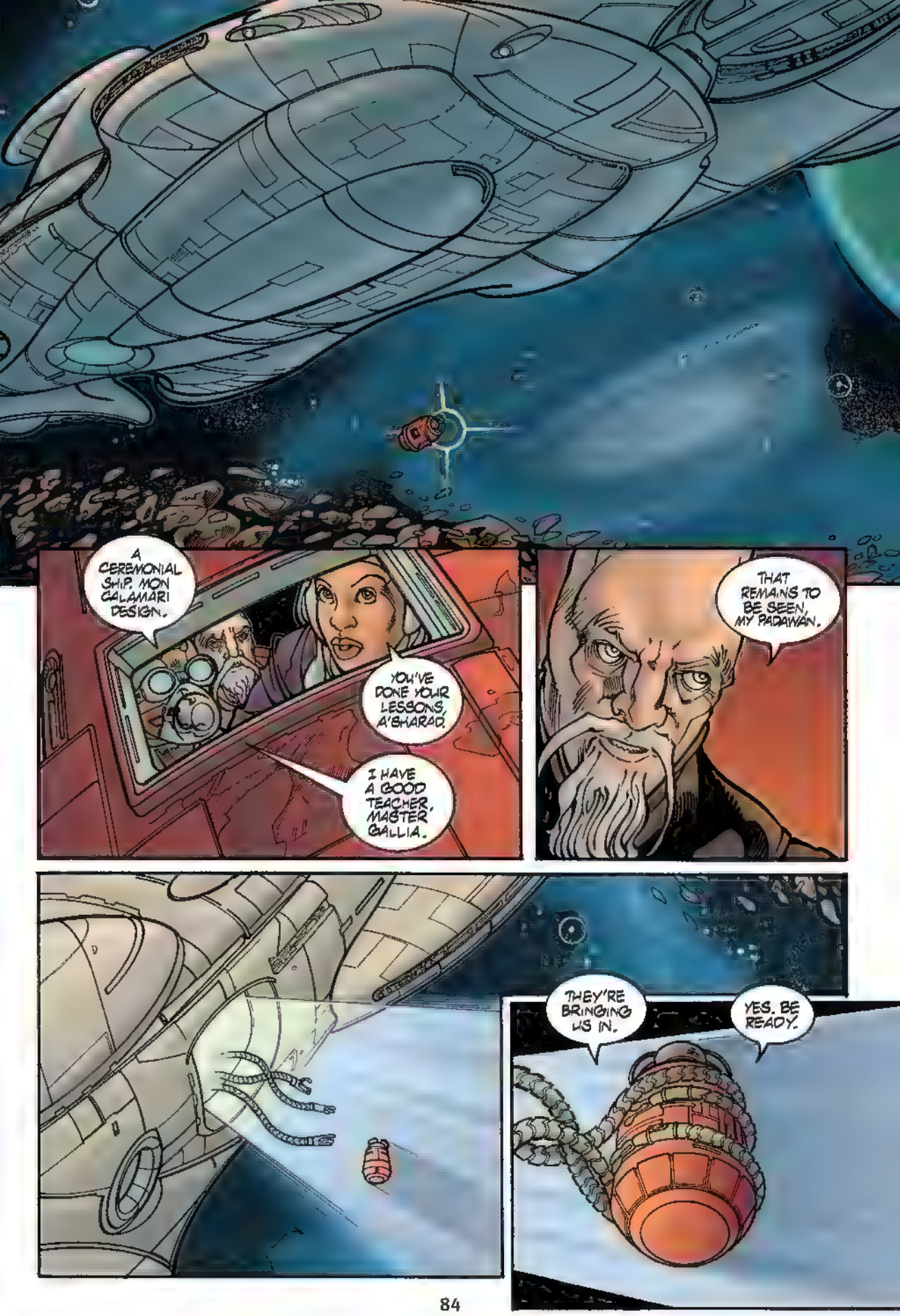

JEDI SCUM.
MASTERS! COMPLETE SYSTEMS FAILURE! ALL SHIELDS DOWN! ONE ENGINE IS GONE--THE OTHER TWO ARE COMPLETELY INOPERABLE!

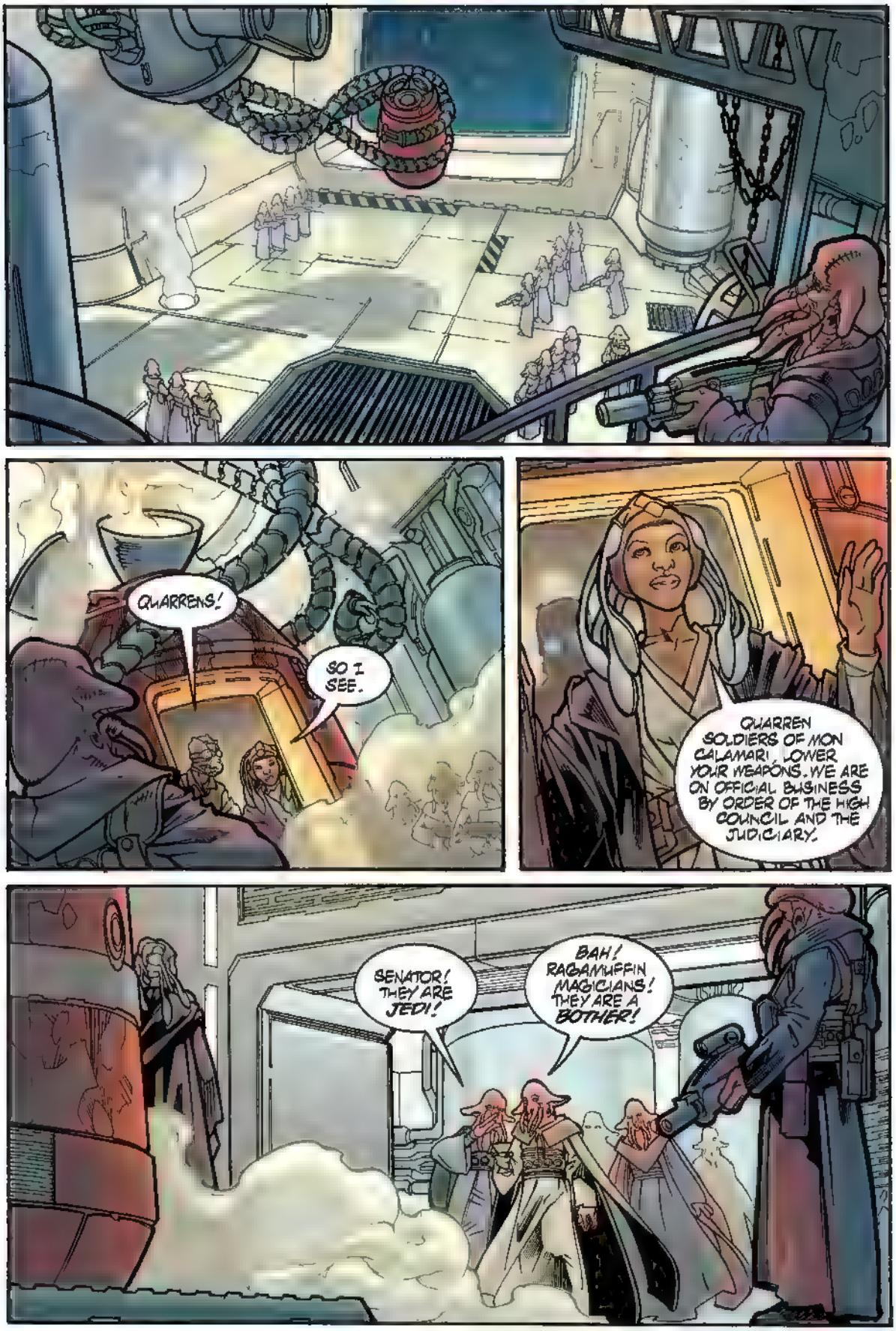
QUICKLY! WE MUST GET TO THE ESCAPE POD.
SHE'S DOUBLING BACK--COMING IN FOR THE KILL!
MAY THE FORCE HELP US! HAVE TO EJECT! HAVE TO--
VDOW
VDOW

KA-BOOM!

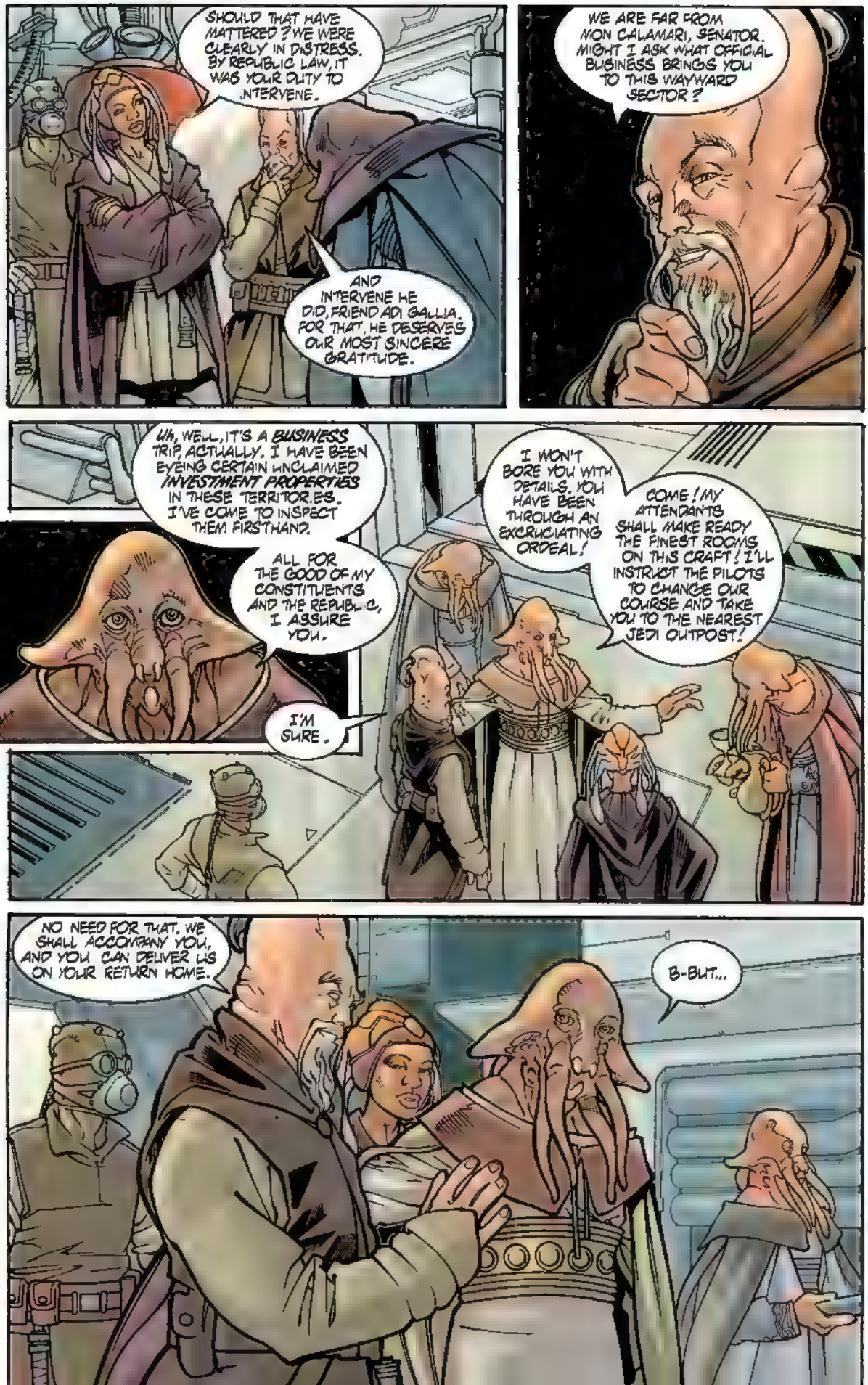

JEDI CRUISER. WONDER HOW MANY WERE ABOARD.
A PITY. ALL THAT FIRE.
WON'T BE ABLE TO COLLECT THEIR LIGHTSABERS.
SOMETIMES, A GIRL HAS TO MAKE SACRIFICES.

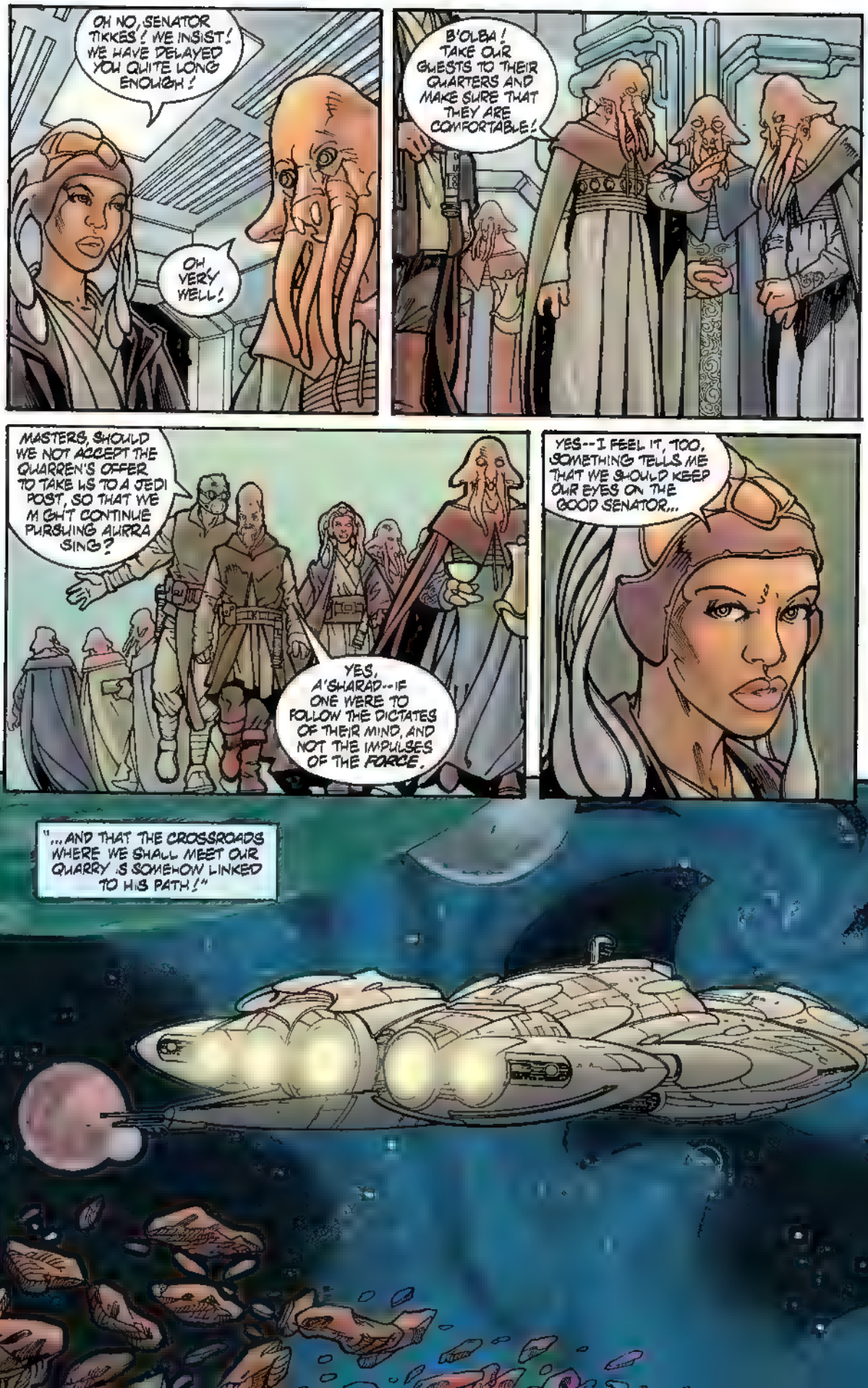

SHE'S LEAVING! SHE THINKS WE'RE DEAD!
WE MIGHT BE YET!
HOLD ON!
THAT WAS CLOSE! SHE ALMOST HAD US!
YES. SHE'S GOOD. VERY GOOD.
IN ANY CASE, SHE DID HER JOB!
THE COMLINK AND THRUSTERS ARE OUT. UNLESS SOMEONE PICKS UP OUR DISTRESS BEACON, WE'LL DRIFT UNTIL THE AIR RUNS OUT.
MAYBE NOT, MASTERS.
SING IS GONE-- BUT ANOTHER SHIP IS APPROACHING!

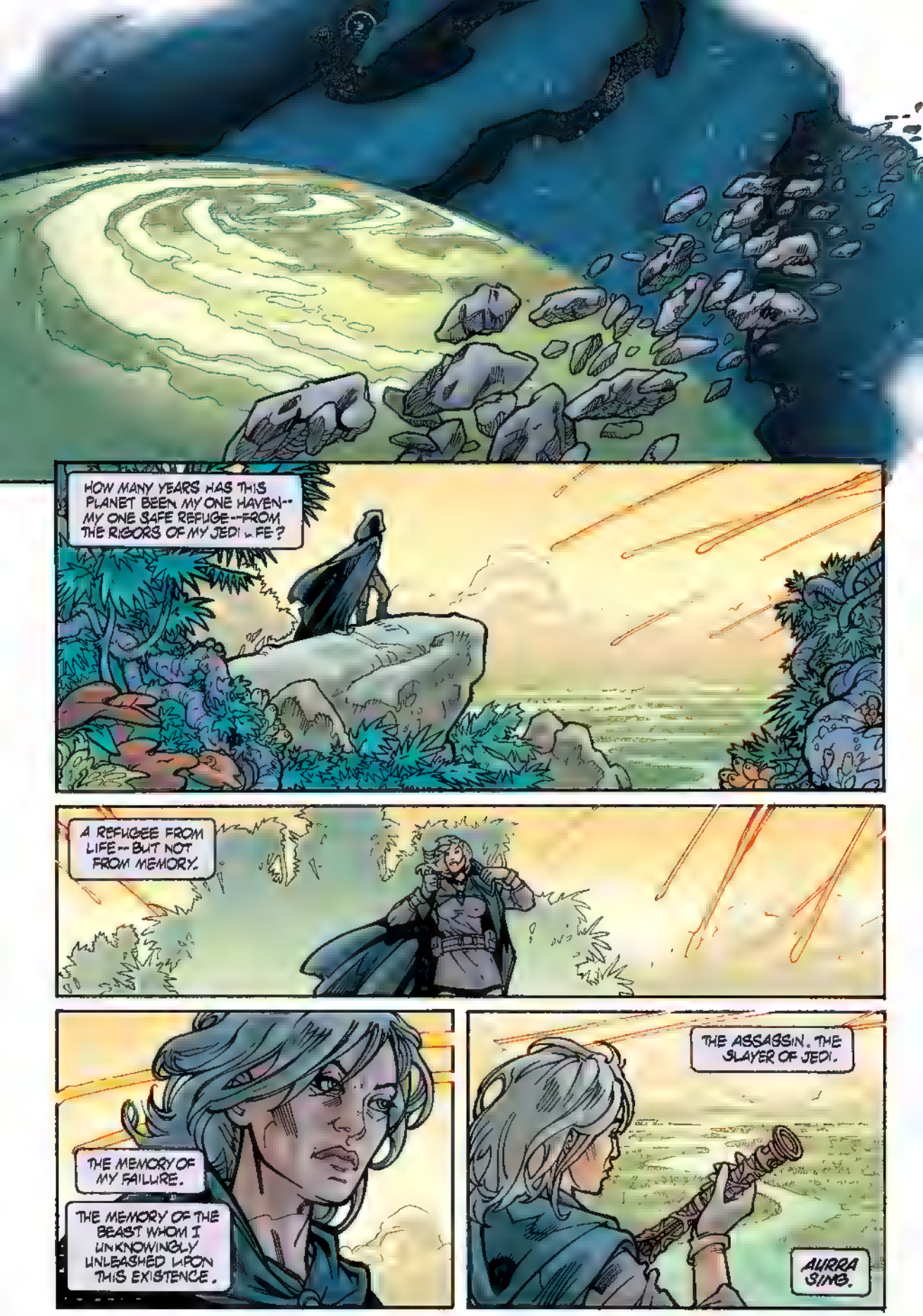

A CEREMONIAL SHIP. MON CALAMARI DESIGN.
YOU'VE DONE YOUR LESSONS, A'SHARAD.
I HAVE A GOOD TEACHER, MASTER GALLIA.
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, MY PADAWAN.
THEY'RE BRINGING US IN.
YES. BE READY.

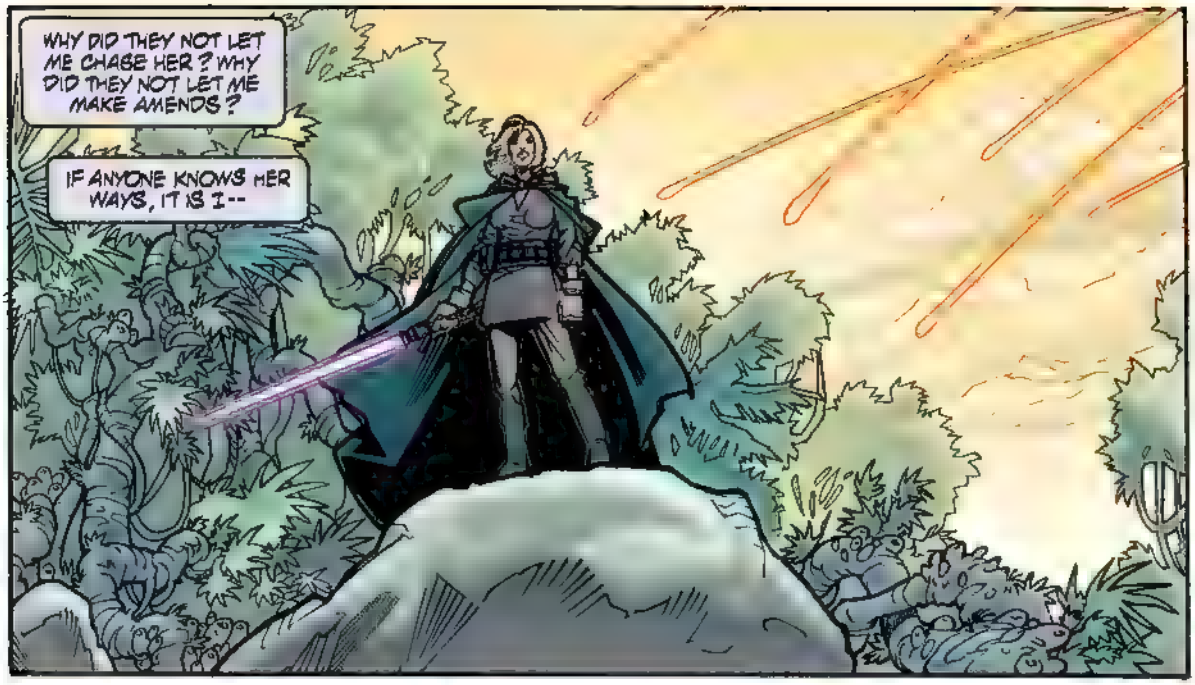

QUARRENS!
SO I SEE.
QUARREN SOLDIERS OF MON CALAMARI. LOWER YOUR WEAPONS. WE ARE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS BY ORDER OF THE HIGH COUNCIL AND THE JUDICIARY.
SENATOR! THEY ARE JEDI!
BAH! RAGAMUFFIN MAGICIANS! THEY ARE A BOTHER!

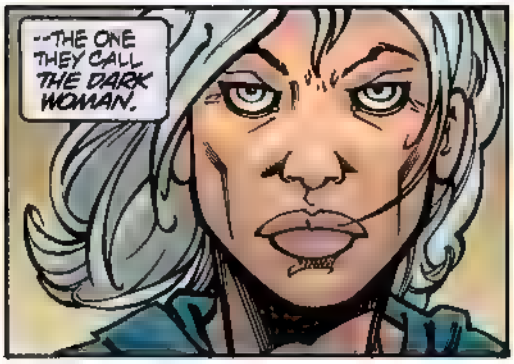
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? I AM SENATOR TIKKES! I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS IN THIS SECTOR, AND YOUR INTRUSION HAS COST ME PRECIOUS TIME.
IT WAS CERTAINLY NOT OUR WISH TO INTERRUPT YOUR PASSAGE, SENATOR TIKKES.
YOU HAVE EARNED THE GRATITUDE OF THE ENTIRE JEDI COUNCIL.
EH? THE COUNCIL? WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I AM ADI GALLIA AND THIS IS KI-ADI-MUNDI. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE JEDI HIGH COUNCIL.
THIS IS MASTER KI'S PADAWAN, A'SHARAD HETT, SON OF SHARAD HETT.
SHARAD HETT? THE FAMOUS JEDI HERO?
I--I AM HONORED! PLEASE... ACCEPT THE MOST GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY OF YOUR FORTUNATE HOST!
I HAD NO IDEA THAT YOU WERE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL!

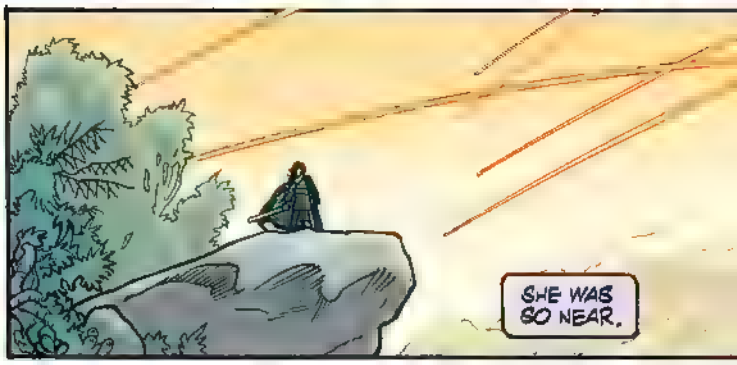

SHOULD THAT HAVE MATTERED? WE WERE CLEARLY IN DISTRESS. BY REPUBLIC LAW, IT WAS YOUR DUTY TO INTERVENE.
AND INTERVENE HE DID, FRIEND ADI GALLIA. FOR THAT, HE DESERVES OUR MOST SINCERE GRATITUDE.
WE ARE FAR FROM MON CALAMARI, SENATOR. MIGHT I ASK WHAT OFFICIAL BUSINESS BRINGS YOU TO THIS WAYWARD SECTOR?
UH, WELL, IT'S A BUSINESS TRIP, ACTUALLY. I HAVE BEEN EYEING CERTAIN UNCLAIMED INVESTMENT PROPERTIES IN THESE TERRITORIES. I'VE COME TO INSPECT THEM FIRSTHAND.
ALL FOR THE GOOD OF MY CONSTITUENTS AND THE REPUBLIC, I ASSURE YOU.
I'M SURE.
I WON'T BORE YOU WITH DETAILS. YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH AN EXCRUCIATING ORDEAL!
COME! MY ATTENDANTS SHALL MAKE READY THE FINEST ROOMS ON THIS CRAFT! I'LL INSTRUCT THE PILOTS TO CHANGE OUR COURSE AND TAKE YOU TO THE NEAREST JEDI OUTPOST!
NO NEED FOR THAT. WE SHALL ACCOMPANY YOU, AND YOU CAN DELIVER US ON YOUR RETURN HOME.
B-BUT...

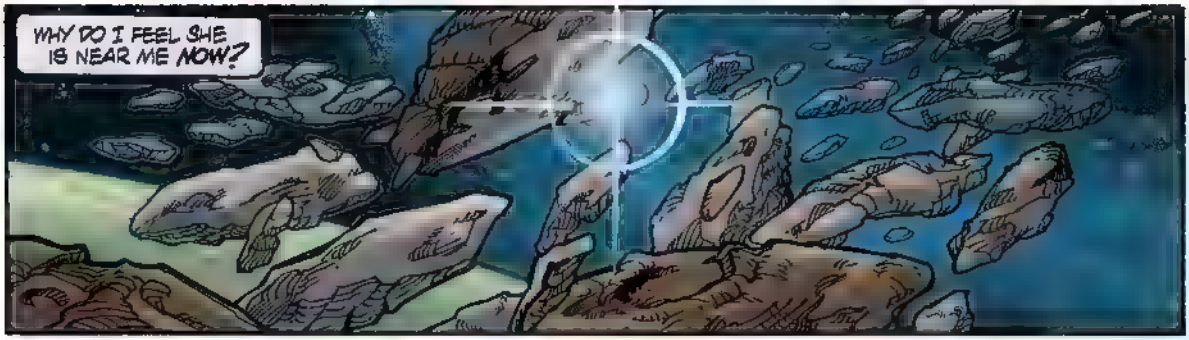

OH NO, SENATOR TIKKES! WE INSIST! WE HAVE DELAYED YOU QUITE LONG ENOUGH!
OH VERY WELL!
B'OLBA! TAKE OUR GUESTS TO THEIR QUARTERS AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE COMFORTABLE!
MASTERS, SHOULD WE NOT ACCEPT THE QUARREN'S OFFER TO TAKE US TO A JEDI POST, SO THAT WE M GHT CONTINUE PURSUING AURRA SING?
YES, A'SHARAD--IF ONE WERE TO FOLLOW THE DICTATES OF THEIR MIND, AND NOT THE IMPULSES OF THE FORCE.
YES--I FEEL IT, TOO, SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT WE SHOULD KEEP OUR EYES ON THE GOOD SENATOR...
"...AND THAT THE CROSSROADS WHERE WE SHALL MEET OUR QUARRY IS SOMEHOW LINKED TO HIS PATH!"

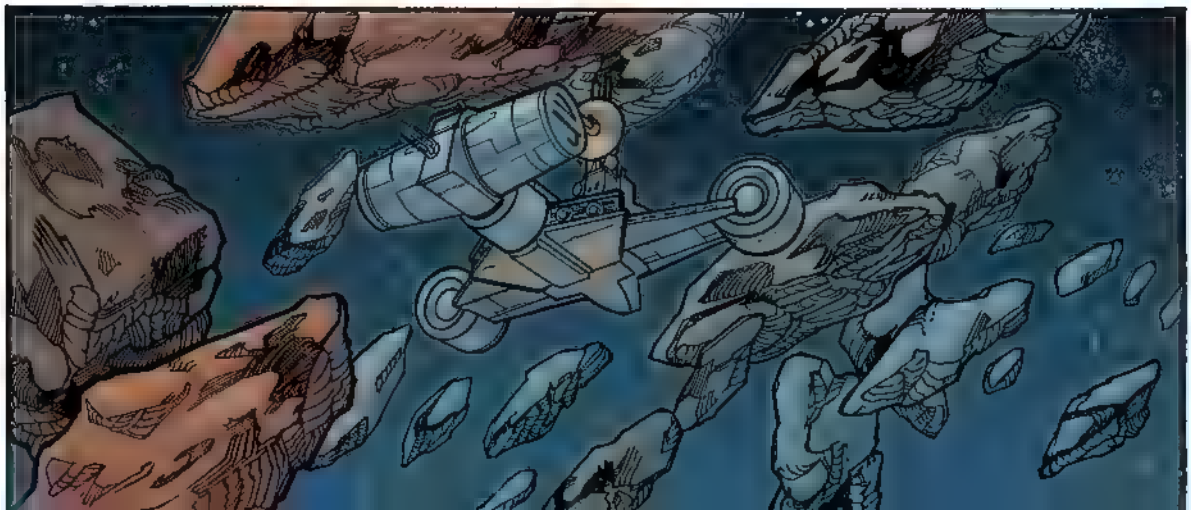

HOW MANY YEARS HAS THIS PLANET BEEN MY ONE HAVEN-- MY ONE SAFE REFUGE--FROM THE RIGORS OF MY JEDI LIFE?
A REFUGEE FROM LIFE--BUT NOT FROM MEMORY.
THE MEMORY OF MY FAILURE.
THE MEMORY OF THE BEAST WHOM I UNKNOWINGLY UNLEASHED UPON THIS EXISTENCE.
THE ASSASSIN. THE SLAYER OF JEDI.
AURRA SING.

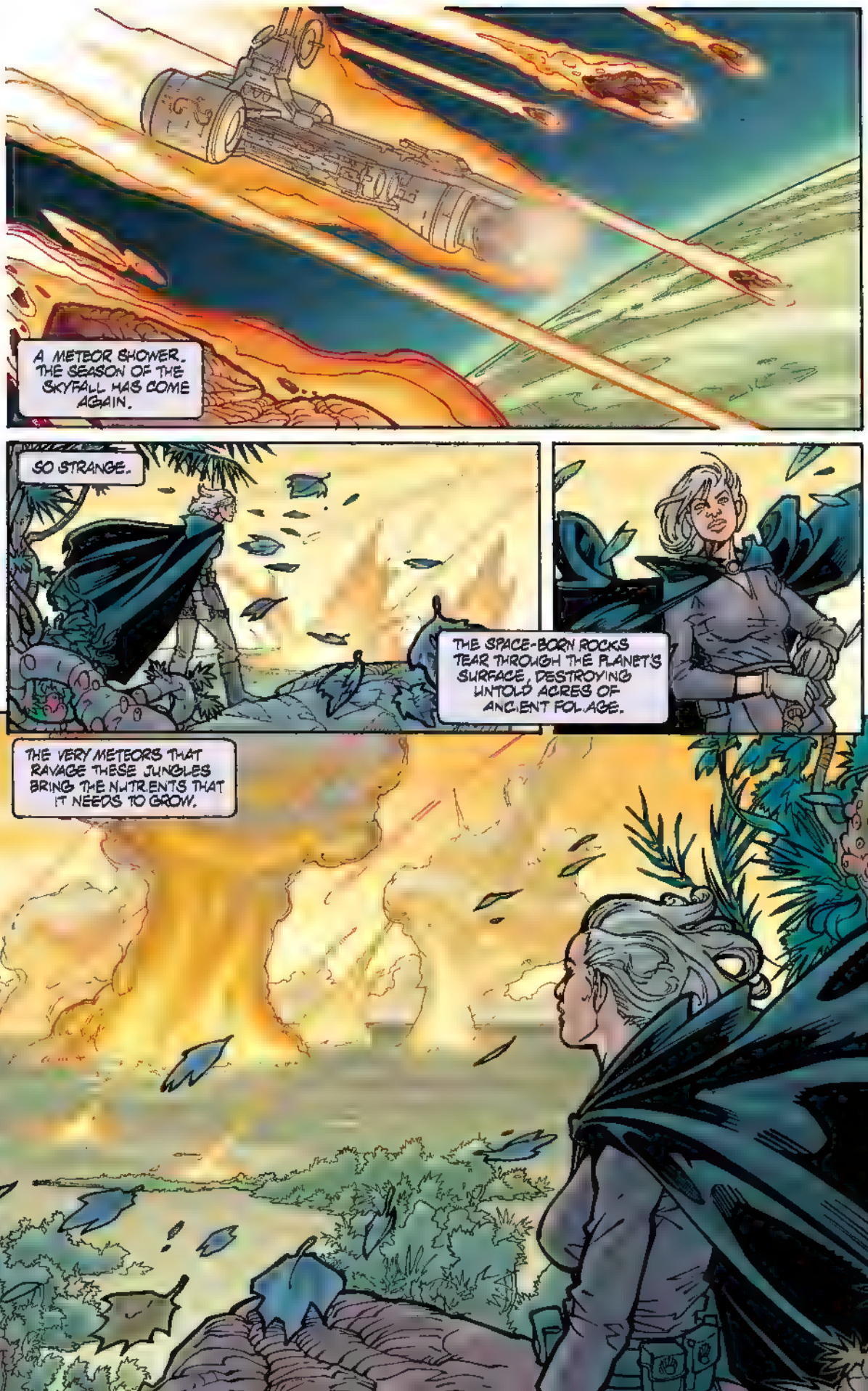

WHY DID THEY NOT LET ME CHASE HER? WHY DID THEY NOT LET ME MAKE AMENDS?
IF ANYONE KNOWS HER WAYS, IT IS I--

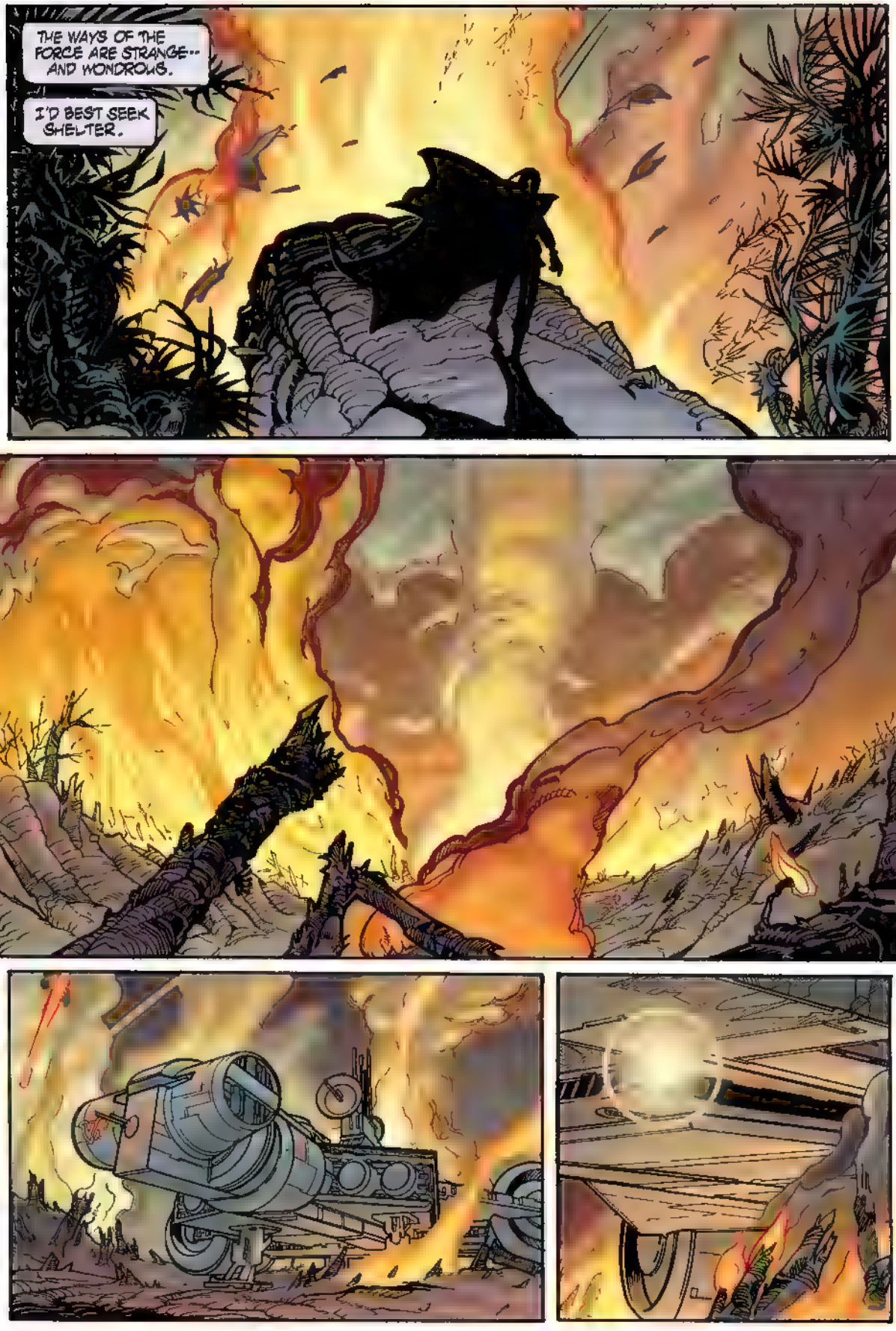

--THE ONE THEY CALL THE DARK WOMAN.


SHE WAS SO NEAR.

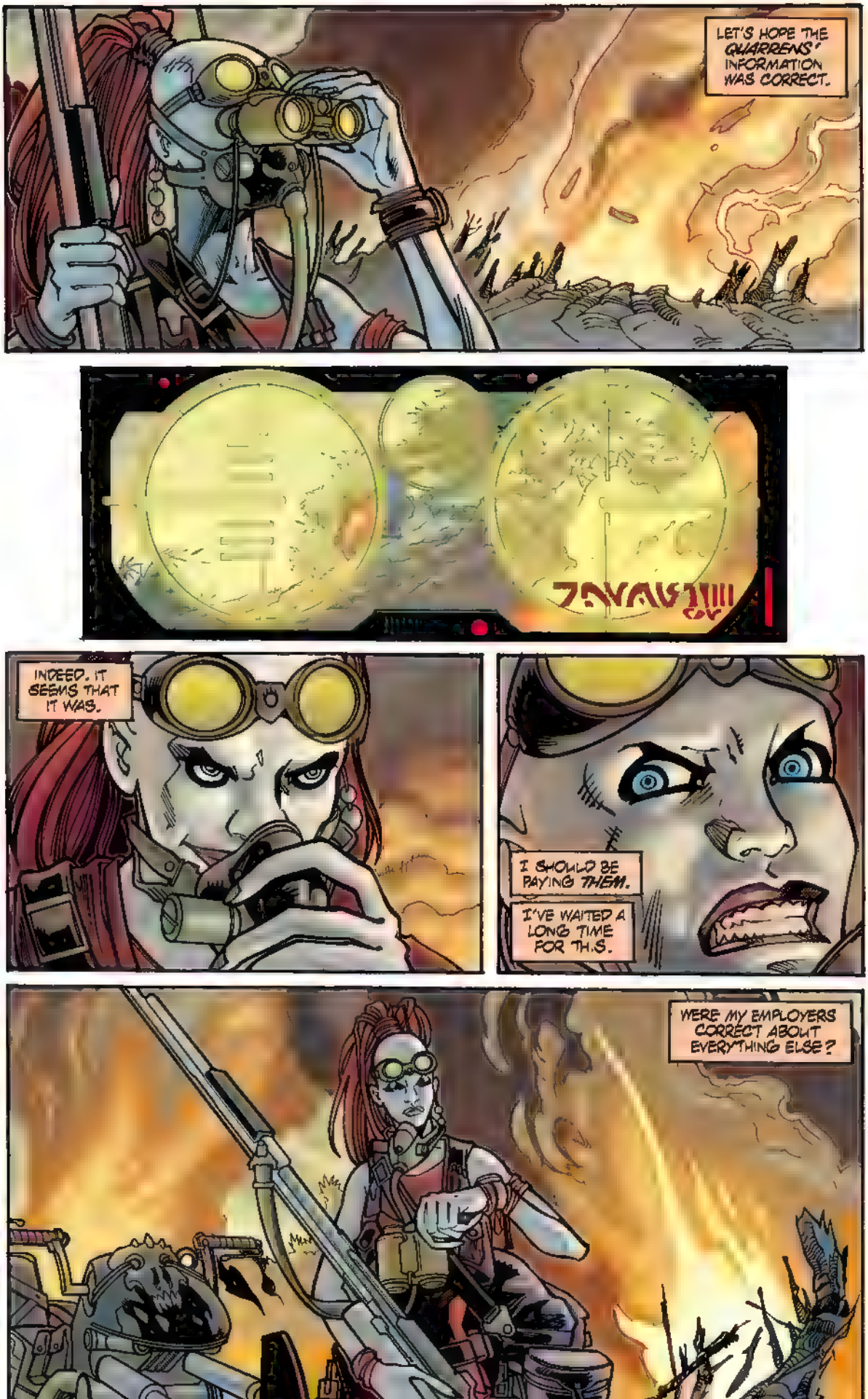

WHY DO I FEEL SHE IS NEAR ME NOW?



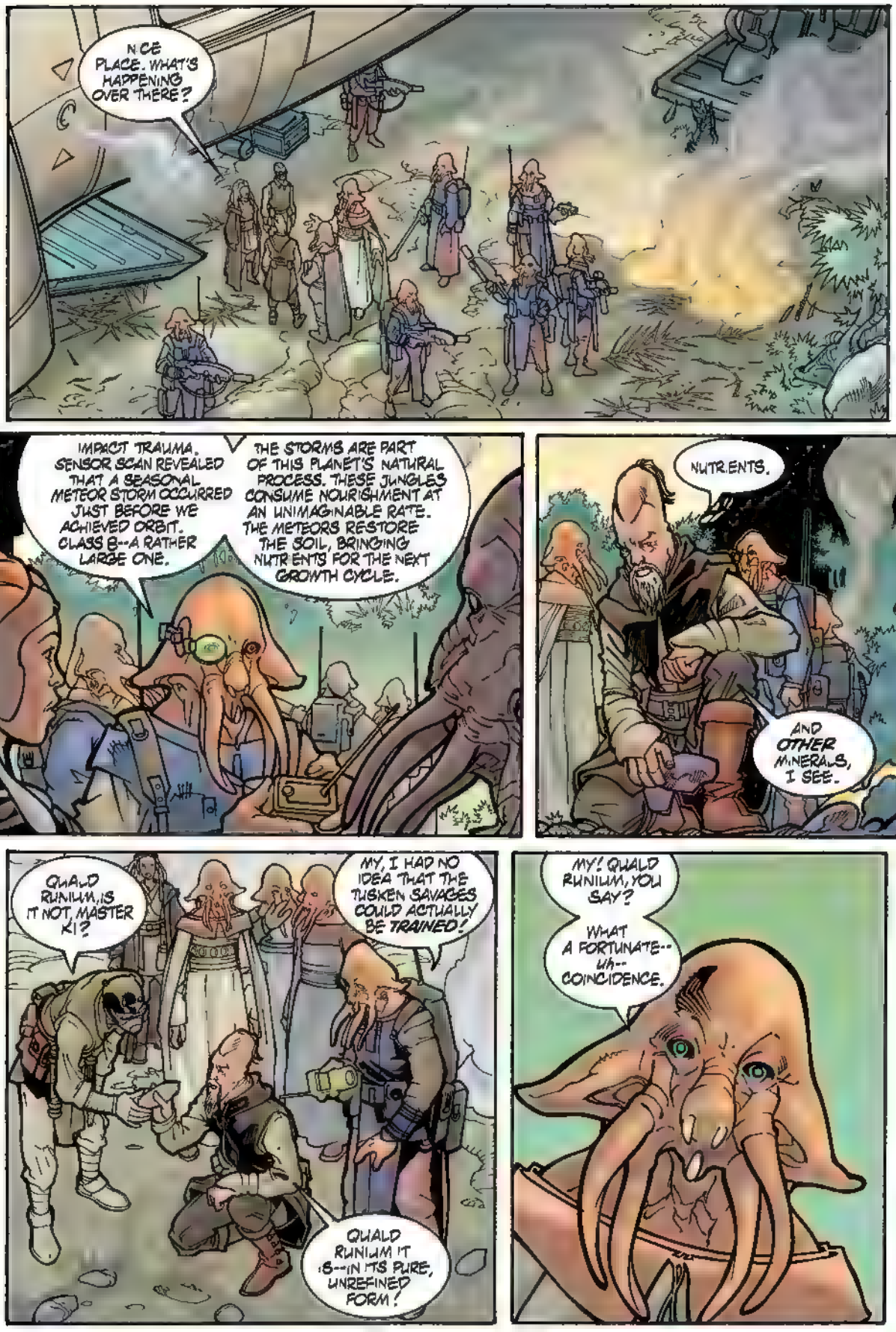

A METEOR SHOWER. THE SEASON OF THE SKYFALL HAS COME AGAIN.
SO STRANGE.
THE SPACE-BORN ROCKS TEAR THROUGH THE PLANET'S SURFACE, DESTROYING UNTOLD ACRES OF ANCIENT FOLIAGE.
THE VERY METEORS THAT RAVAGE THESE JUNGLES BRING THE NUTRIENTS THAT IT NEEDS TO GROW.


THE WAYS OF THE FORCE ARE STRANGE-- AND WONDROUS.
I'D BEST SEEK SHELTER.

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.

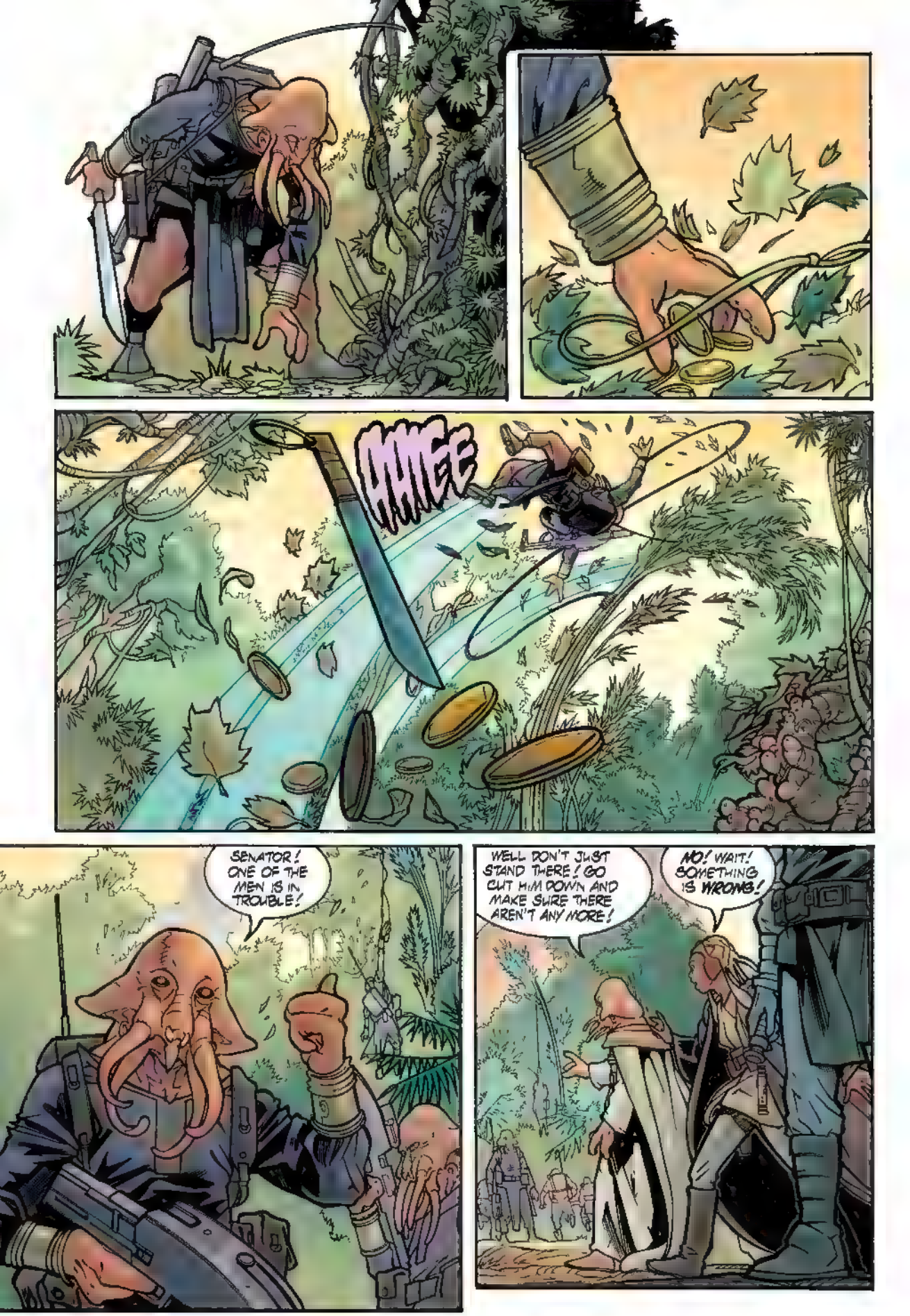

LET'S HOPE THE QUARRENS' INFORMATION WAS CORRECT.
INDEED. IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS.
I SHOULD BE PAYING THEM.
I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR TH.S.
WERE MY EMPLOYERS CORRECT ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE?

YES. THERE IT IS. JUST PENETRATING THE ATMOSPHERE.
RIGHT ON TIME.
GOOD. I HATE A LATE FUNERAL.
BETTER GET GOING.
I HAVE FLOWERS TO ARRANGE.


NICE PLACE. WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE?
IMPACT TRAUMA. SENSOR SCAN REVEALED THAT A SEASONAL METEOR STORM OCCURRED JUST BEFORE WE ACHIEVED ORBIT. CLASS 8--A RATHER LARGE ONE.
THE STORMS ARE PART OF THIS PLANET'S NATURAL PROCESS. THESE JUNGLES CONSUME NOURISHMENT AT AN UNIMAGINABLE RATE. THE METEORS RESTORE THE SOIL, BRINGING NUTRIENTS FOR THE NEXT GROWTH CYCLE.
NUTRIENTS.
AND OTHER MINERALS, I SEE.
QUALD RUNIUM, IS IT NOT, MASTER KI?
MY, I HAD NO IDEA THAT THE TUSKEN SAVAGES COULD ACTUALLY BE TRAINED!
QUALD RUNIUM IT IS--IN ITS PURE, UNREFINED FORM!
MY! QUALD RUNIUM, YOU SAY?
WHAT A FORTUNATE-- UH-- COINCIDENCE.

BUT SENATOR, IT'S JUST AS YOUR EXPEDITIONARY TEAMS--HMMRH!
QUIET, TRACTON, LEST YOUR TECHNICAL BABBLE BORE OUR GUESTS! WE'LL SHARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS LATER!
IT MAY BE UNWISE FOR YOU TO BE HERE, SENATOR... THIS IS AN UNTAMED PLACE, IN THE MIDST OF A DANGEROUS STORM CYCLE--
MY SCIENTISTS TELL ME THAT THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER STORM UNTIL TOMORROW. BY THEN, I WILL HAVE FINISHED MY EVALUATION.
BESIDES, AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M WELL PROTECTED.
WELL DONE! NOW, CONTINUE SECURING THE LANDING PERIMETER!
CLEAR A PATH THROUGH THOSE TREES, SO THAT WE CAN SET UP THE MESON DIAGNOSTIC SCANNERS.

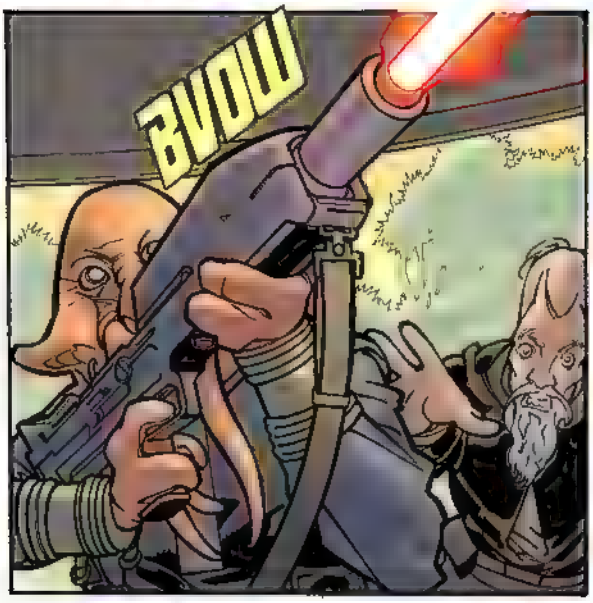
YOU'RE VERY QUIET A'SHARAD-- MORE THAN USUAL.
SOMETHING HERE ISN'T RIGHT, MASTER.
A DARK SHADOW SKIRTS THE EDGES OF THE FORCE.
ALL WORLDS ARE FULL OF SHADOWS, MY PADAWAN.
A'SHARAD IS RIGHT, KI. SURELY YOU SENSE IT, TOO?
YES.
STAY CLOSE. IF THERE'S DANGER, WE'LL FACE IT TOGETHER.
<ARR! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?>
<MY LUCKY DAY!>
<ARR! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?>
<MY LUCKY DAY!>

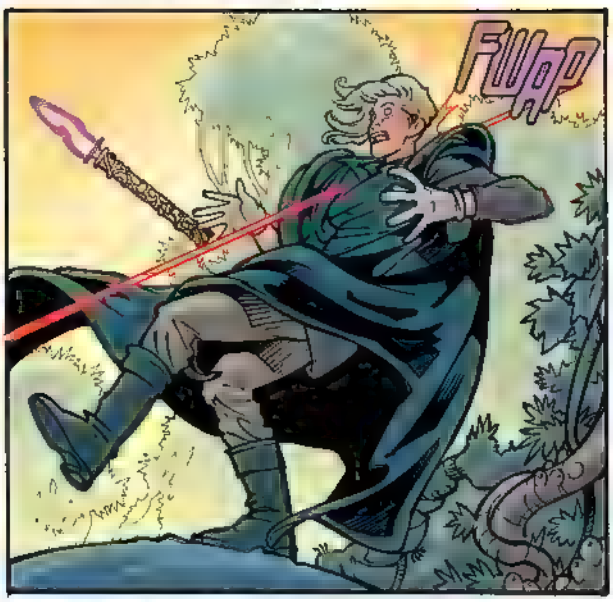

AHHEE
SENATOR! ONE OF THE MEN IS IN TROUBLE!
WELL DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GO CUT HIM DOWN AND MAKE SURE THERE AREN'T ANY MORE!
NO! WAIT! SOMETHING IS WRONG!

BA-BOOM
TH-THEY'RE GONE! ALMOST ALL OF THEM! HOW--?
MINES! SOMEONE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!

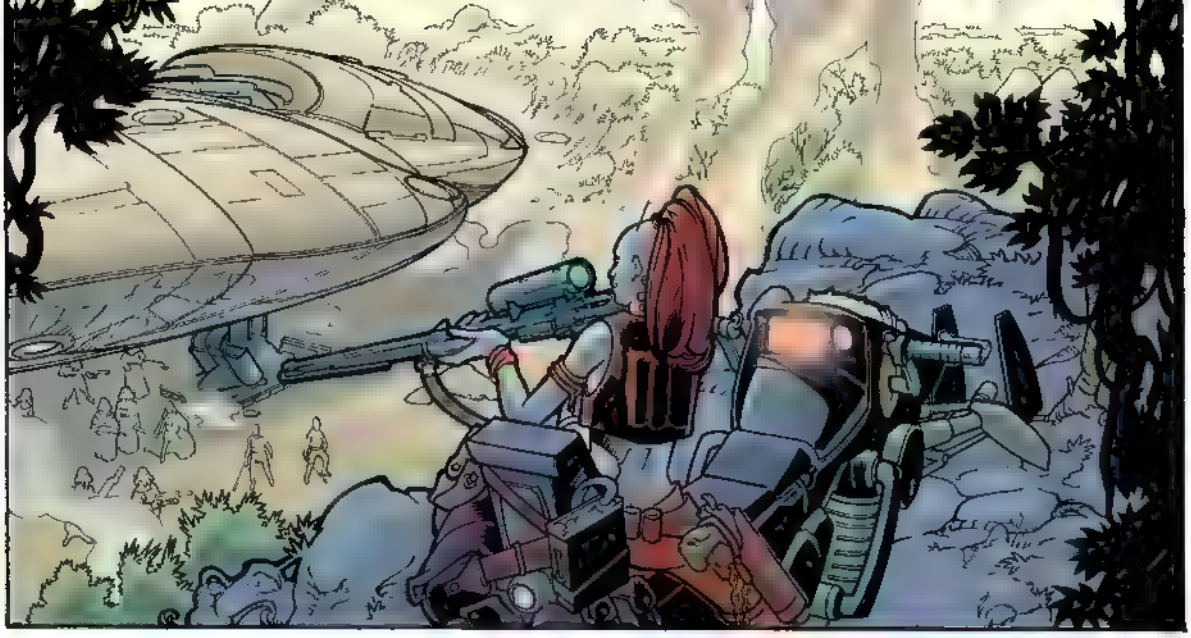
KI-ADI-MUNDI! IS THAT YOU?

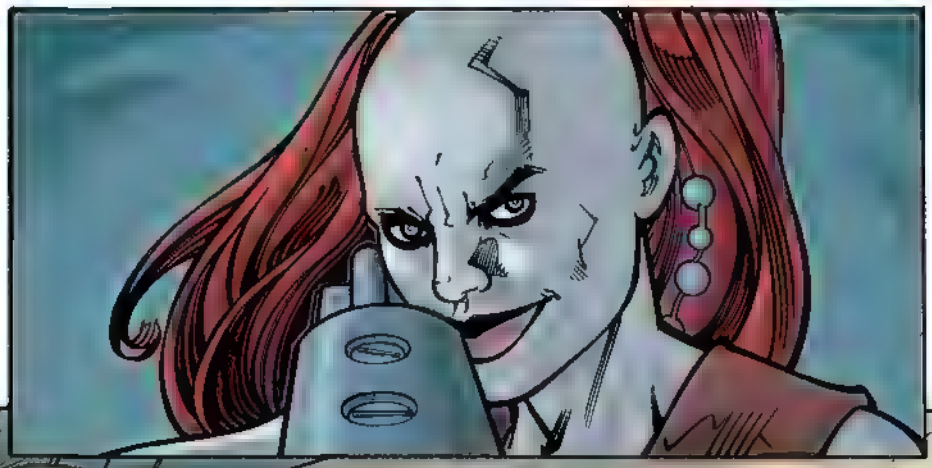
THE DARK WOMAN! HERE?
<SHE'S THE ONE WHO PLANTED THE MINES!>
NO!

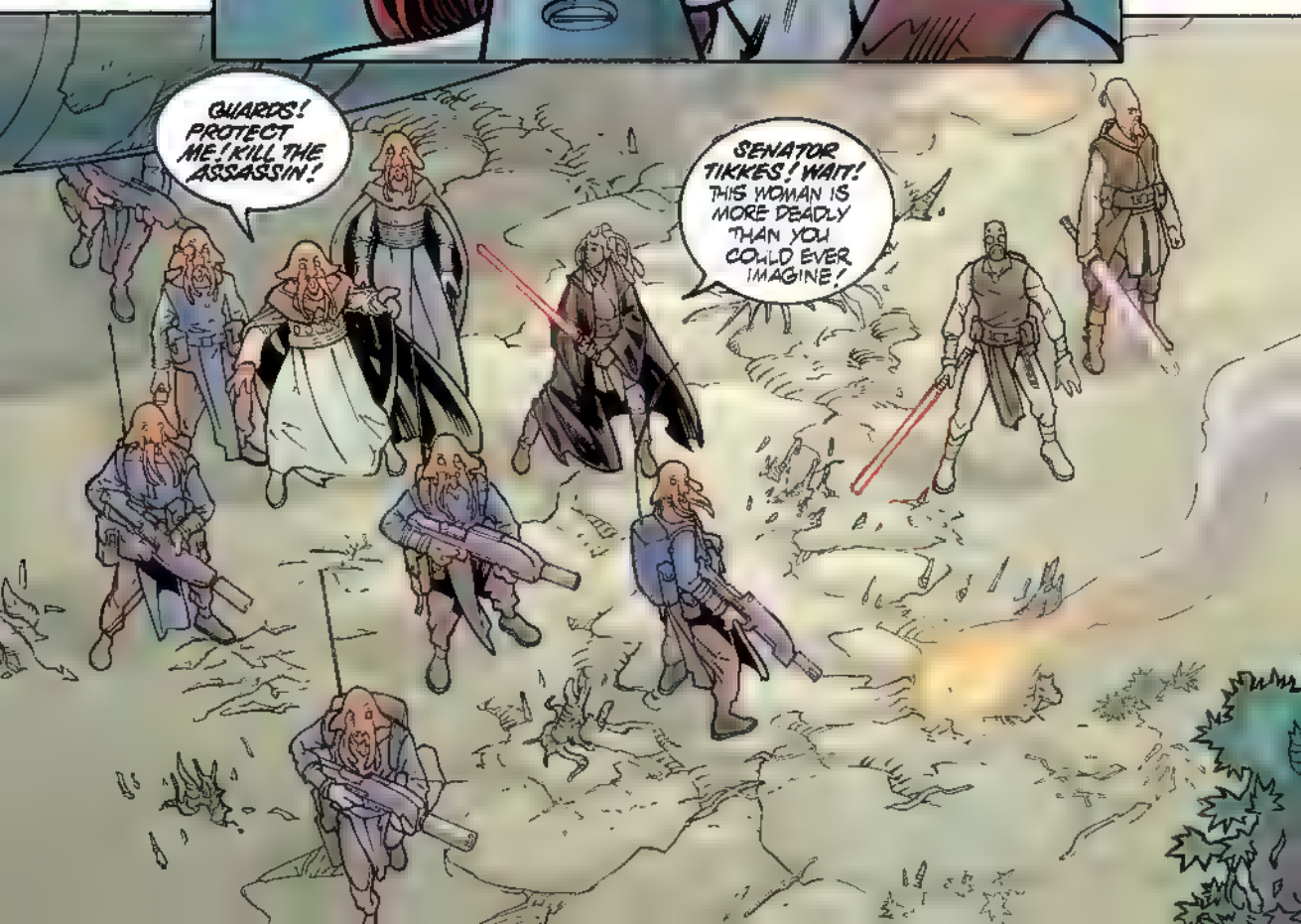

BVOW


FWAP

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
IS SHE--?
I'M NOT SURE! I--
DEAD NOW, DEAD LATER. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
YOU ARE MINE!
AURRA SING WILL KILL YOU ALL, KI-ADI-MUNDI!





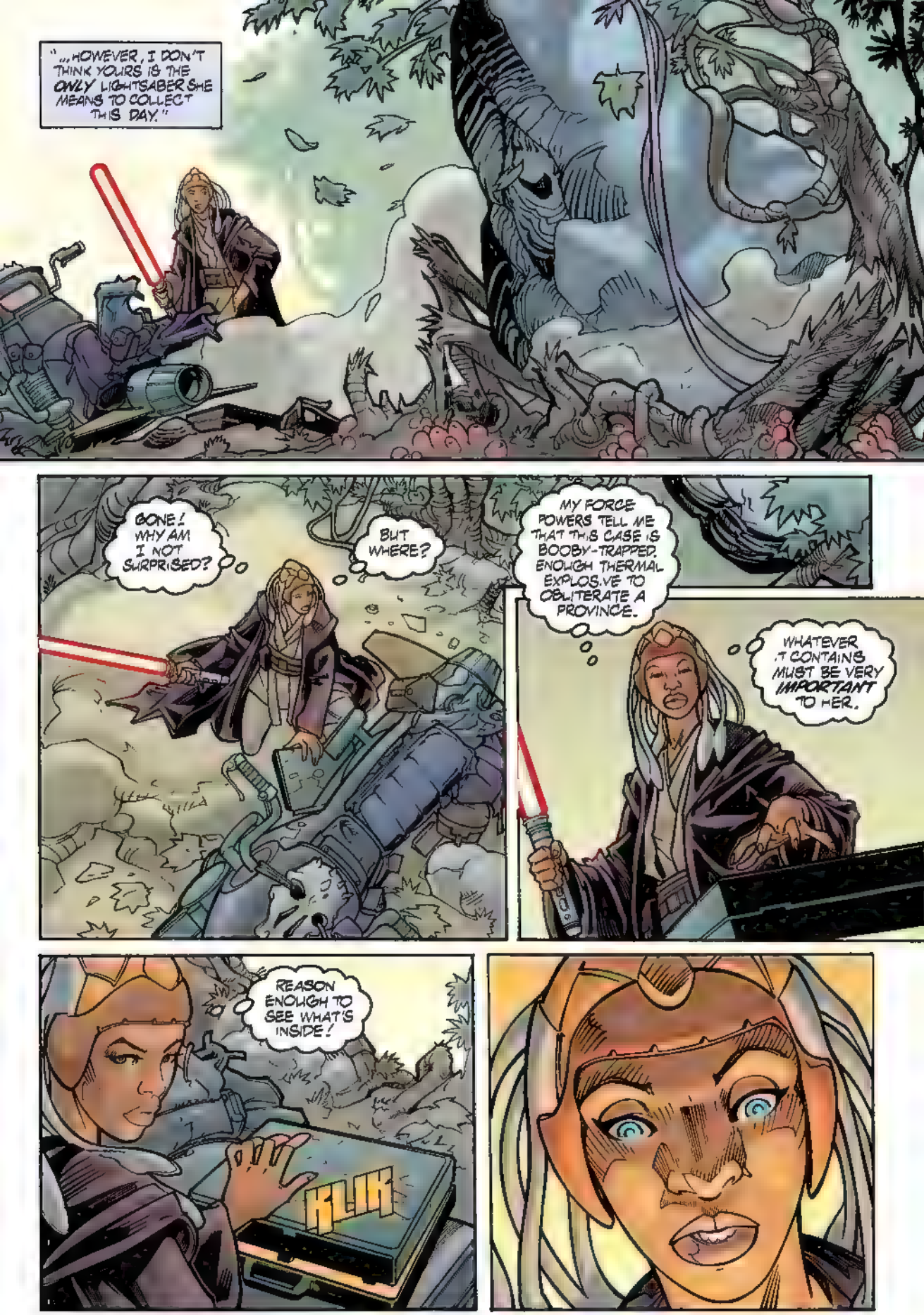

GUARDS! PROTECT ME! KILL THE ASSASSIN!
SENATOR TIKKES! WAIT! THIS WOMAN IS MORE DEADLY THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE!

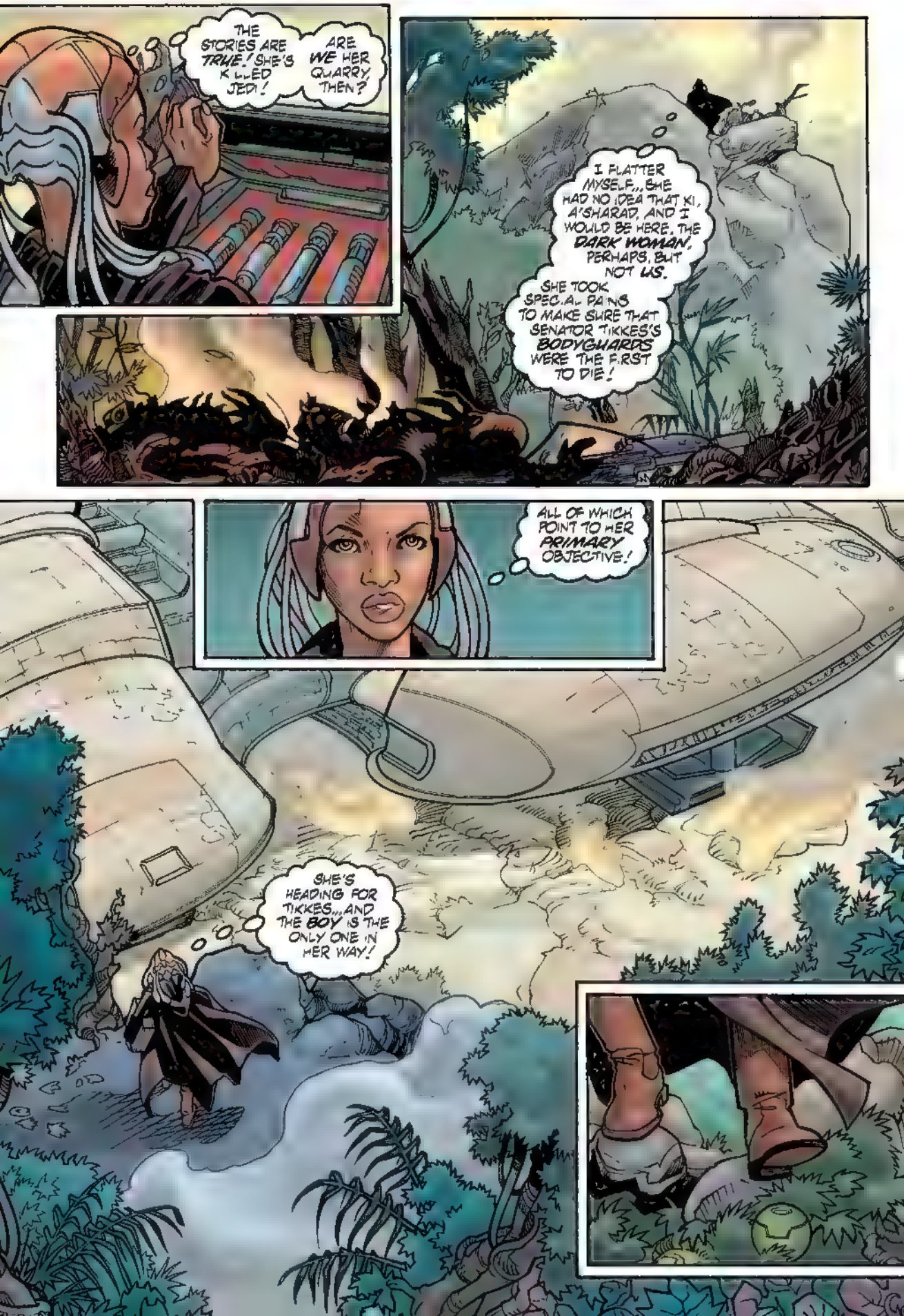
Ah! ADI GALLIA, ARE YOU NOT?
COMPLIMENTS FROM SUCH A FAMOUS JEDI MASTER. HOW NICE.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THE WORDS ARE SO TRUE.
SO, YOU KNOW ME.
I'VE HEARD OF YOU, TOO, AURRA SING.

WHAM!
IS SHE DEAD?
NOT LIKELY! QUICKLY! GET THE SENATOR AND HIS AIDES INTO THE SHIP!
NO, MASTER! I MUST FIND AURRA SING!
YOU HEARD ME, PADAWAN! GUARD THE SENATOR! WE HAVE OTHER THINGS TO THINK ABOUT RIGHT NOW!
MY OLD TEACHER IS UP THERE IN THOSE HILLS SOMEPLACE-- WOUNDED.. PERHAPS DEAD! I HAVE TO REACH HER!

THAT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE TO CHECK ON OUR ASSASSIN, MASTER GALLIA.
UNDERSTOOD. BE CAREFUL, KI!
AND YOU AS WELL! THE BEAST IS NOT DEAD--ONLY WA TING!

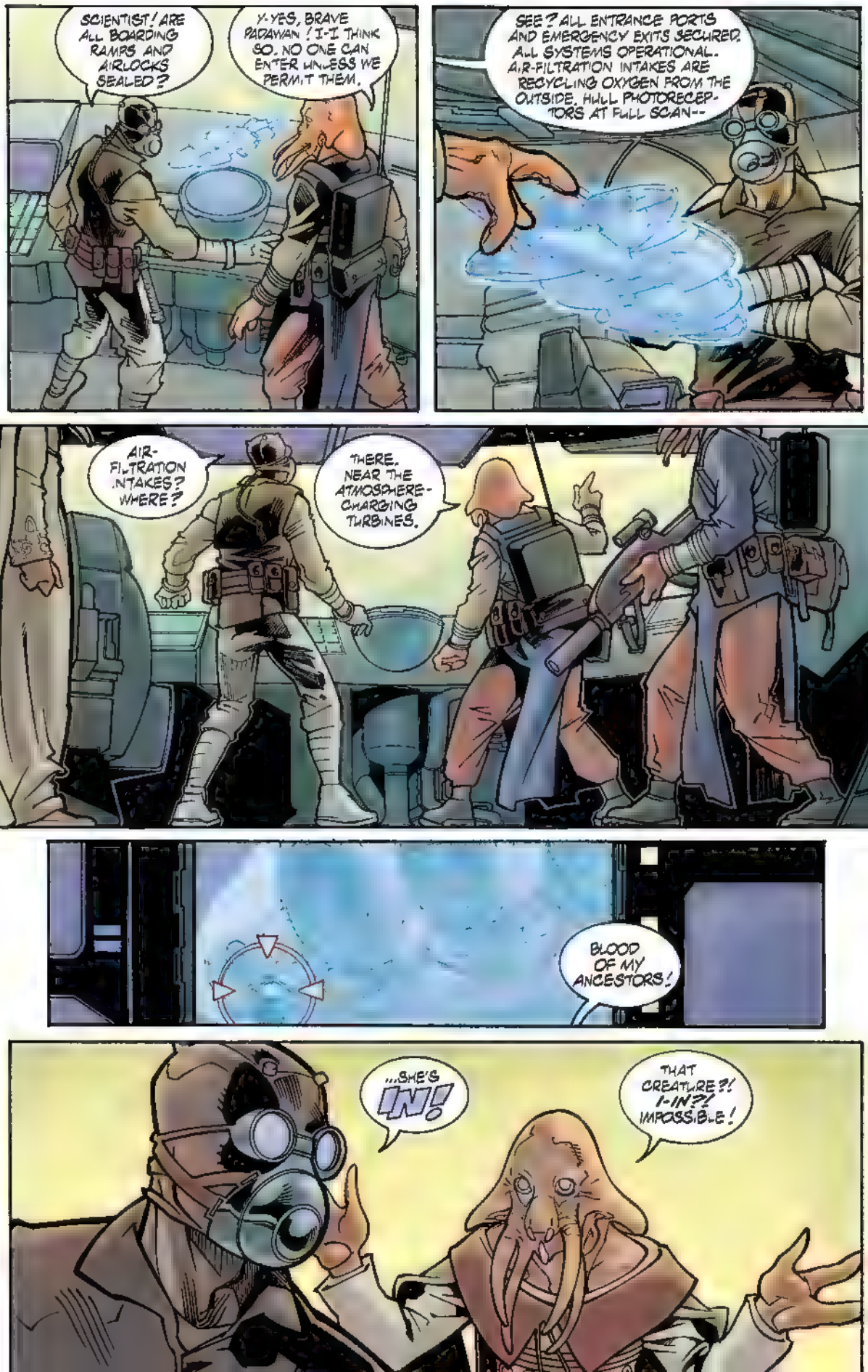
KI!
FIRST TEACHER?
YES. I COULD SCARCE BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN I SAW YOU DOWN THERE! MANY SURPRISES TODAY, IT SEEMS.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
NOT MY OWN WILL, I MUST CONFESS.
THE LIVING HAND OF THE FORCE IS AT WORK, THAT IS CERTAIN.
TIKKES'S BODYGUARD SHOT YOU! WE MUST TEND TO YOUR WOUND.
NO-- THAT'S NOT THE IMPORTANT THING! YOU KNOW THAT, KI!
AHRRA SING IS DOWN THERE! BOUNTY HUNTER... SLAYER OF JEDI... MY STUDENT!
HAS SHE FINALLY COME TO KILL ME?
PERHAPS...


"...HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK YOURS IS THE ONLY LIGHTSABER SHE MEANS TO COLLECT THIS DAY."
GONE! WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?
BUT WHERE?
MY FORCE POWERS TELL ME THAT THIS CASE IS BOOBY-TRAPPED. ENOUGH THERMAL EXPLOSIVE TO OBLITERATE A PROVINCE.
WHATEVER IT CONTAINS MUST BE VERY IMPORTANT TO HER.
REASON ENOUGH TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!
KLIK


THE STORIES ARE TRUE! SHE'S KILLED JEDI!
ARE WE HER QUARRY THEN?
I FLATTER MYSELF,, SHE HAD NO IDEA THAT KI, A'SHARAD, AND I WOULD BE HERE. THE DARK WOMAN, PERHAPS, BUT NOT US.
SHE TOOK SPECIAL PAINS TO MAKE SURE THAT SENATOR TIKKES'S BODYGUARDS WERE THE FIRST TO DIE!
ALL OF WHICH POINT TO HER PRIMARY OBJECTIVE!
SHE'S HEADING FOR TIKKES,,, AND THE BOY IS THE ONLY ONE IN HER WAY!

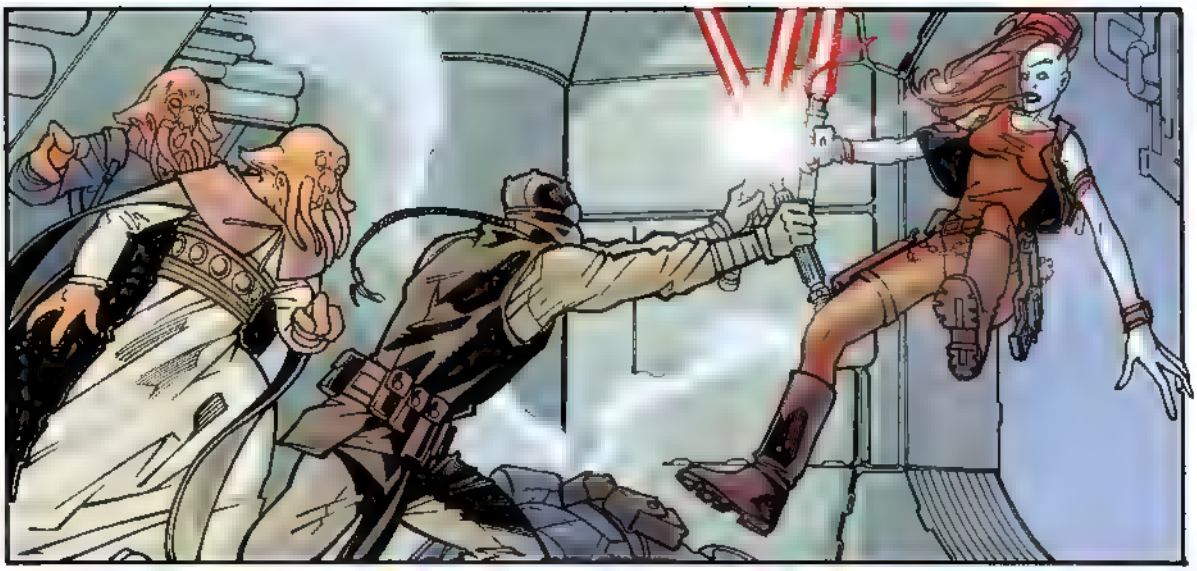
KI-WHOOM
ANOTHER EXPLOSION!
ADI GALLIA!
QUICKLY! WE MUST SEE TO HER!
I HAVE TO LEAVE NOW! CAN YOU FLY THIS SHIP, YOU FILTHY SAVAGE?

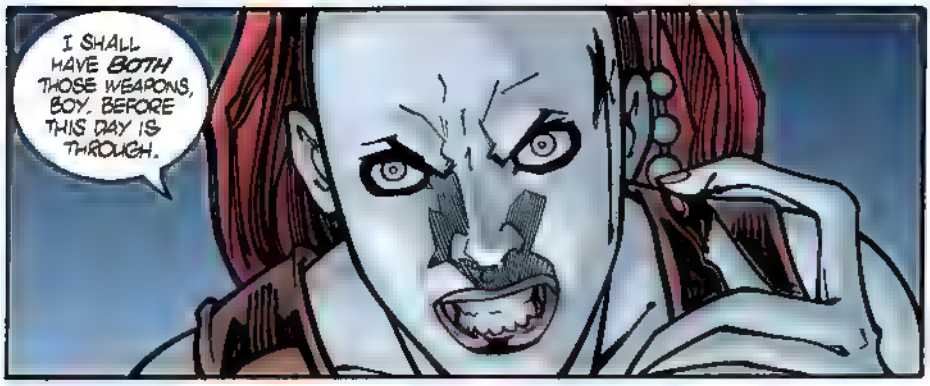
WE DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT MY MASTER.
THE JEDI ARE OATH BOUND TO SERVE THE REPUBLIC AND THE JUDICIARY BRANCH! YOU'LL DO AS I SAY!
I AM NOT YET A JEDI, TIKKES. ONLY A LOWLY PADAWAN. I MADE NO OATH TO THE REPUBLIC-- ONLY TO MY MASTER.
WE STAY.

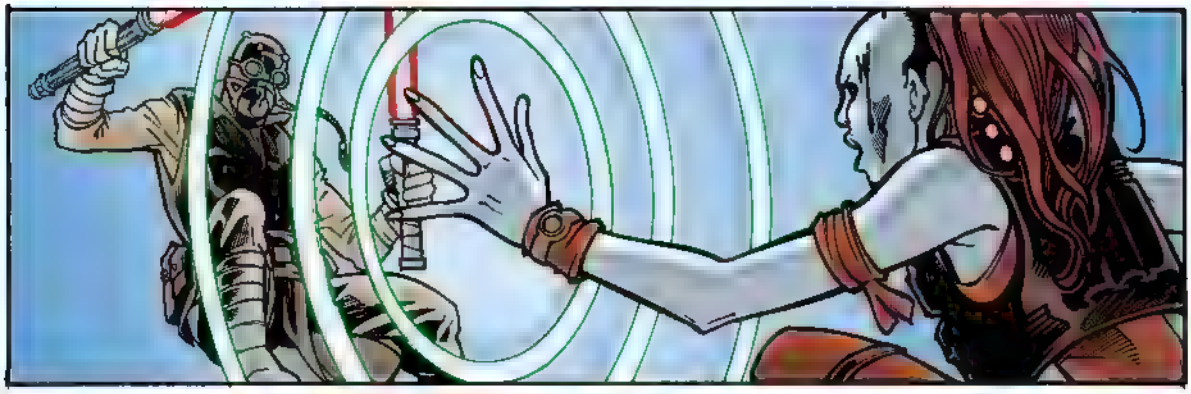

SCIENTIST! ARE ALL BOARDING RAMPS AND AIRLOCKS SEALED?
Y-YES, BRAVE PADAWAN! I-I THINK SO. NO ONE CAN ENTER UNLESS WE PERMIT THEM.
SEE? ALL ENTRANCE PORTS AND EMERGENCY EXITS SECURED. ALL SYSTEMS OPERATIONAL. AIR-FILTRATION INTAKES ARE RECYCLING OXYGEN FROM THE OUTSIDE. HULL PHOTORECEPTORS AT FULL SCAN--
AIR-FILTRATION INTAKES? WHERE?
THERE. NEAR THE ATMOSPHERE-CHARGING TURBINES.
BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS!
...SHE'S IN!
THAT CREATURE?! I-IN?! IMPOSSIBLE!

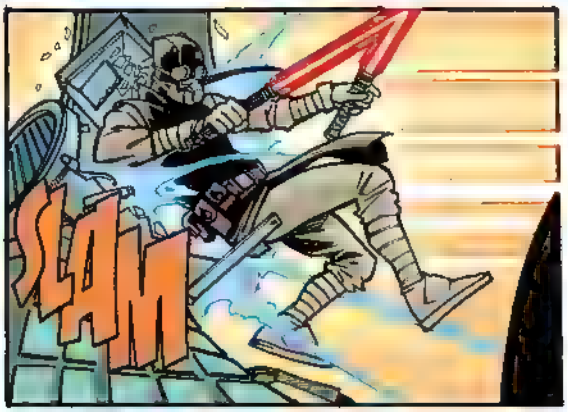
AKKHH!
NO. AS YOU CAN SEE, VERY POSSIBLE.
SENATOR TIKKES OF MON CALAMARI. ONE OF THE REPUBLIC'S FINE POLITICIANS.
KILLING YOU WILL BE A PUBLIC SERV CE.
F.RST YOU. THEN THE FOOLISH PADAWAN.
THEN HIS FR.ENDS OUTS DE.
WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY THIS TURNED INTO. VERY FULL. VERY REWARDING.
A GIRL COULD GET SPOILED.

SO, PUP. YOU HAVE TALENT.
I RECOGNIZE ONE OF THOSE BLADES. YOUR FATHER'S LIGHTSABER, IS IT NOT?
IT WAS GOOD, KILLING HIM.




I SHALL HAVE BOTH THOSE WEAPONS, BOY. BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH.

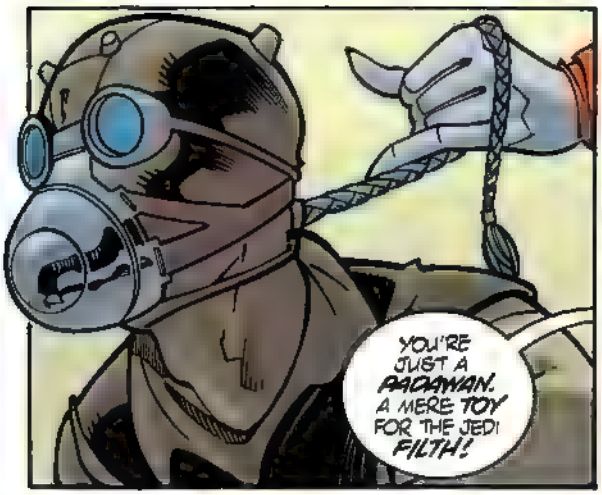



SLAM

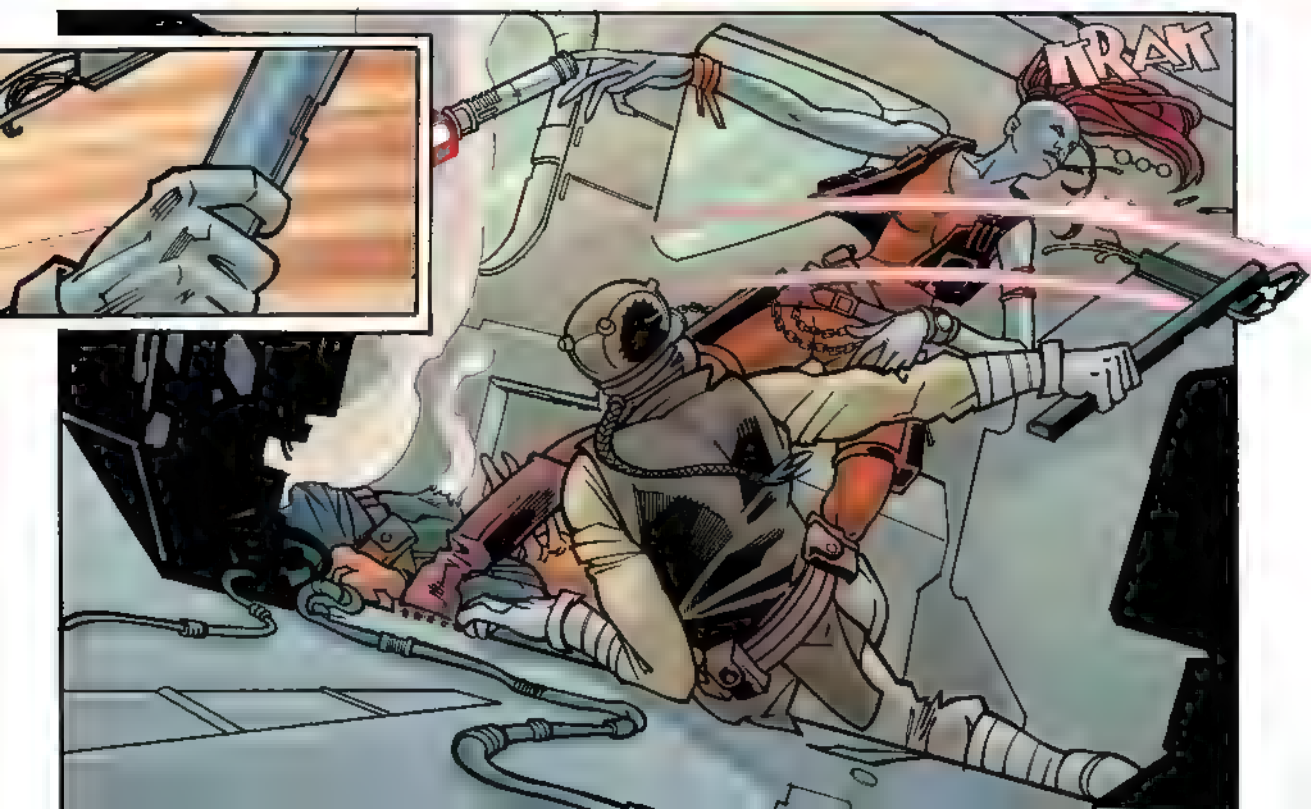
KI-ADI-MUNDI IS YOUR MASTER NOW? AM I RIGHT?
DID HE TEACH YOU WELL?
HE WAS MY TEACHER, TOO, YOU KNOW. AT LEAST FOR A WHILE!
HE'S NOT SO BAD--FOR JEDI SCUM!
UH!
TUMP

AAARH!
MY, MY! HAVE I MADE YOU ANGRY, PUP?
GOOD!
BAM

I DIDN'T HAVE TO KILL YOU, YOU KNOW. YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD BOY.


YOU'RE JUST A PADAWAN. A MERE TOY FOR THE JEDI FILTH!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY REALLY WANT, DO YOU?


KRAK

I KNOW WHAT I WANT, YOU MURDERING MONSTER!
SHE'S STILL ALIVE!
KI! LOOK! SOMEONE IS LEAVING THE SHIP!

SHE CAME ABOARD THE SHIP! KILLED EVERYONE! IT WAS HORRIBLE!
THE BOY... HE---
A'SHABAD?! IS HE ALL RIGHT?
THUMP

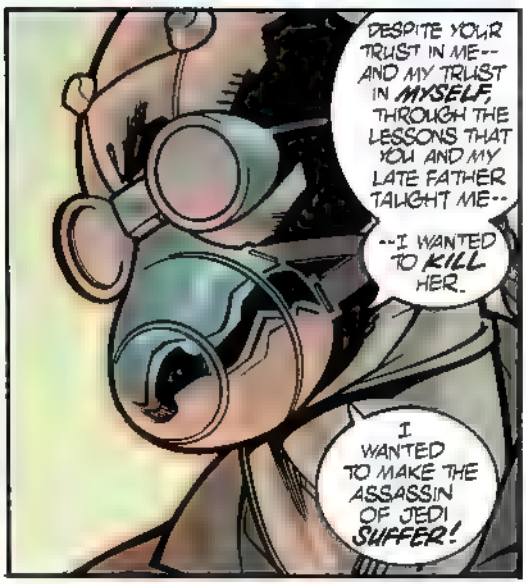
A SHARAD!

YES, MASTER KI. I AM HERE.

YOU DEFEATED HER PADAWAN HETT! WELL DONE!
WELL DONE, MASTER?

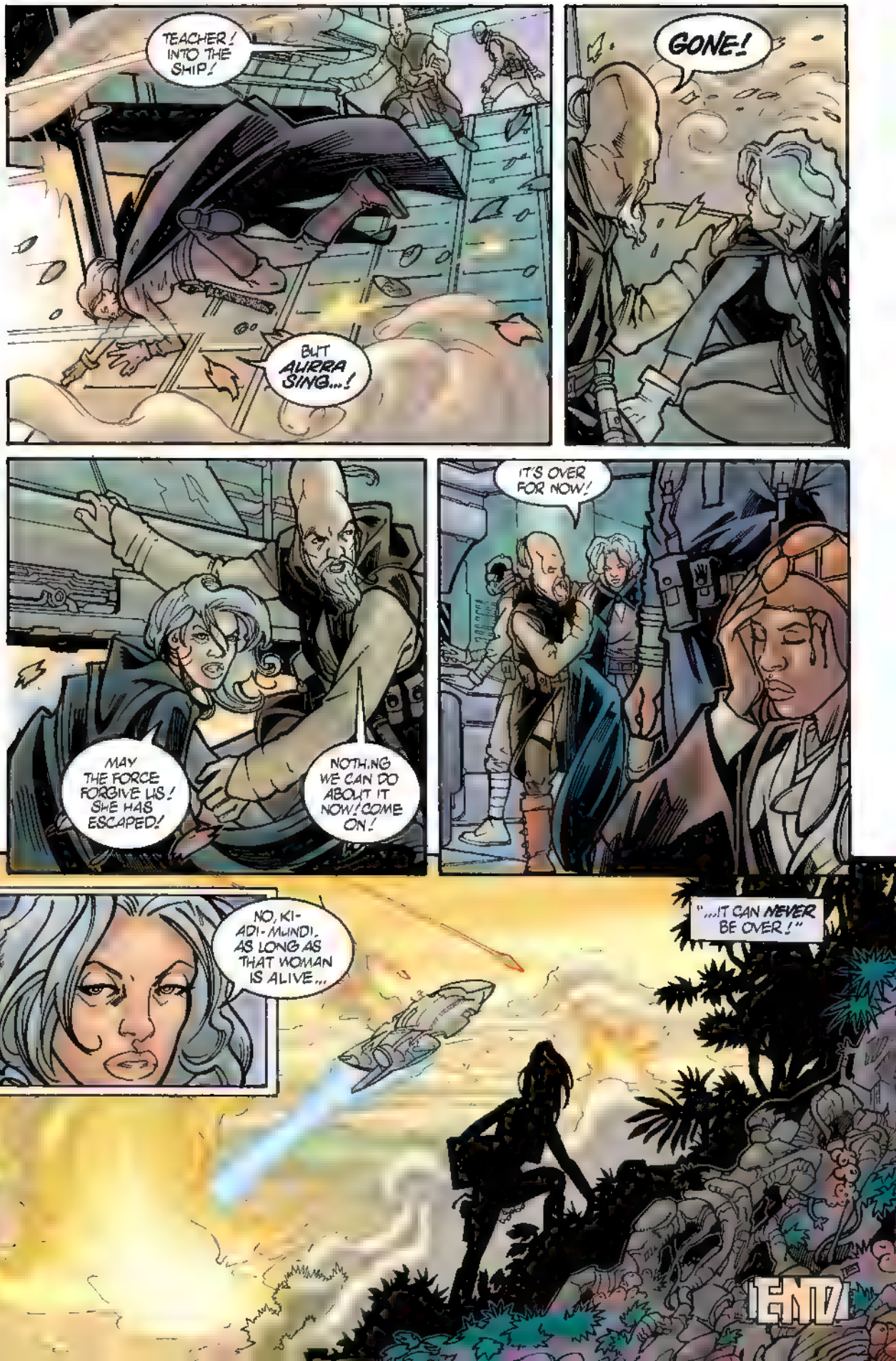
I THINK NOT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT IS THIS DARKNESS I FEEL UPON YOUR HEART?
JUST THAT, MASTER. A DARKNESS, LIKE NOTHING I EVER FELT BEFORE.


DESPITE YOUR TRUST IN ME-- AND MY TRUST IN MYSELF, THROUGH THE LESSONS THAT YOU AND MY LATE FATHER TAUGHT ME--
--I WANTED TO KILL HER.
I WANTED TO MAKE THE ASSASSIN OF JEDI SUFFER!

I CAN NO LONGER BE YOUR PADAWAN, NOR CAN I TRUST MYSELF TO PURSUE THE WAYS OF THE FORCE.
I ASK TO BE FREED OF MY VOWS TO YOU, AND WILL, IN KIND, FREE YOU OF THE VOW THAT YOU MADE TO MY FATHER.
TAKE ME BACK TO TATOOINE... TO MY PEOPLE... TO THE VOICELESS, DEADLY DESERT. THERE, I CAN HARM NO ONE.
WE ALL HAVE A DARKNESS WITHIN US, A'SHARAD HETT. IT IS WHAT MAKES US LIVING BEINGS, BOUND BY THE FORCE.
WE CAN NEVER BRUSH THAT DARKNESS AWAY. IT IS WITHIN US ALWAYS.
WE CAN ONLY LEARN TO CONTROL IT, LIKE A DANGEROUS BEAST THAT MUST BE KEPT UPON A CHAIN.
I KNOW OF THIS DARKNESS. I HAVE SEEN THOSE WHO BECOME LOST TO IT, LIKE THAT CREATURE DOWN THERE.
PLEASE... STAY WITH THE JEDI. FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST. AND WITH MASTER KI'S PERMISSION, ALLOW ME TO BECOME YOUR TEACHER.
ARE YOU SURE OF THIS, FIRST TEACHER?
I AM SURE. I NEED THIS BOY, KI. AND HE NEEDS ME.

THEN I LEAVE THE ANSWER UP TO THE PADAWAN. THOUGH I WOULD MISS HIM LIKE MY OWN SON, THE CHOICE IS HIS.
MASTER ... I--
BY THE BRAZEN CLAWS OF THE GREAT OCTOWHALE! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SKY?!
ANOTHER STORM!
BUT MY SCIENCE OFFICER SAID THERE WOULD NOT BE ANOTHER STORM UNTIL TOMORROW!
HERE, IT IS TOMORROW, TIKKES. THE DAYS OF THIS WORLD ARE MUCH SHORTER THAN THOSE OF YOUR OWN PLANET.
QUICKLY, INTO THE SHIP AND ACTIVATE THE SHIELDS! I'LL COLLECT SING!
WHOM


TEACHER! INTO THE SHIP!
BUT AURRA SING...!
GONE!
MAY THE FORCE FORGIVE US! SHE HAS ESCAPED!
NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW! COME ON!
IT'S OVER FOR NOW!
NO, KI-ADI-MUNDI. AS LONG AS THAT WOMAN IS ALIVE...
"...IT CAN NEVER BE OVER!"
END

Jedi Quest | Illustration by Pop Mhan and Norman Lee

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

script by Ryder Windham

pencils by Pop Mhan

inks by Norman Lee

colors by Dave Nestelle

letters by Steve Dutro

WE CAN'T OUTRUN THE PIRATES, CAPTAIN...
...AND WE JUST LOST OUR LAST SHIELD!
THEY'RE STILL JAMMING ALL FREQUENCIES. NO CHANCE OUR DISTRESS SIGNAL MADE IT.
THEN WE MUST SURRENDER. STOP ALL ENGINES.
YOU... YOU THINK THEY'LL KILL US?
MAYBE. THEN AGAIN, THEY MIGHT DO WORSE.

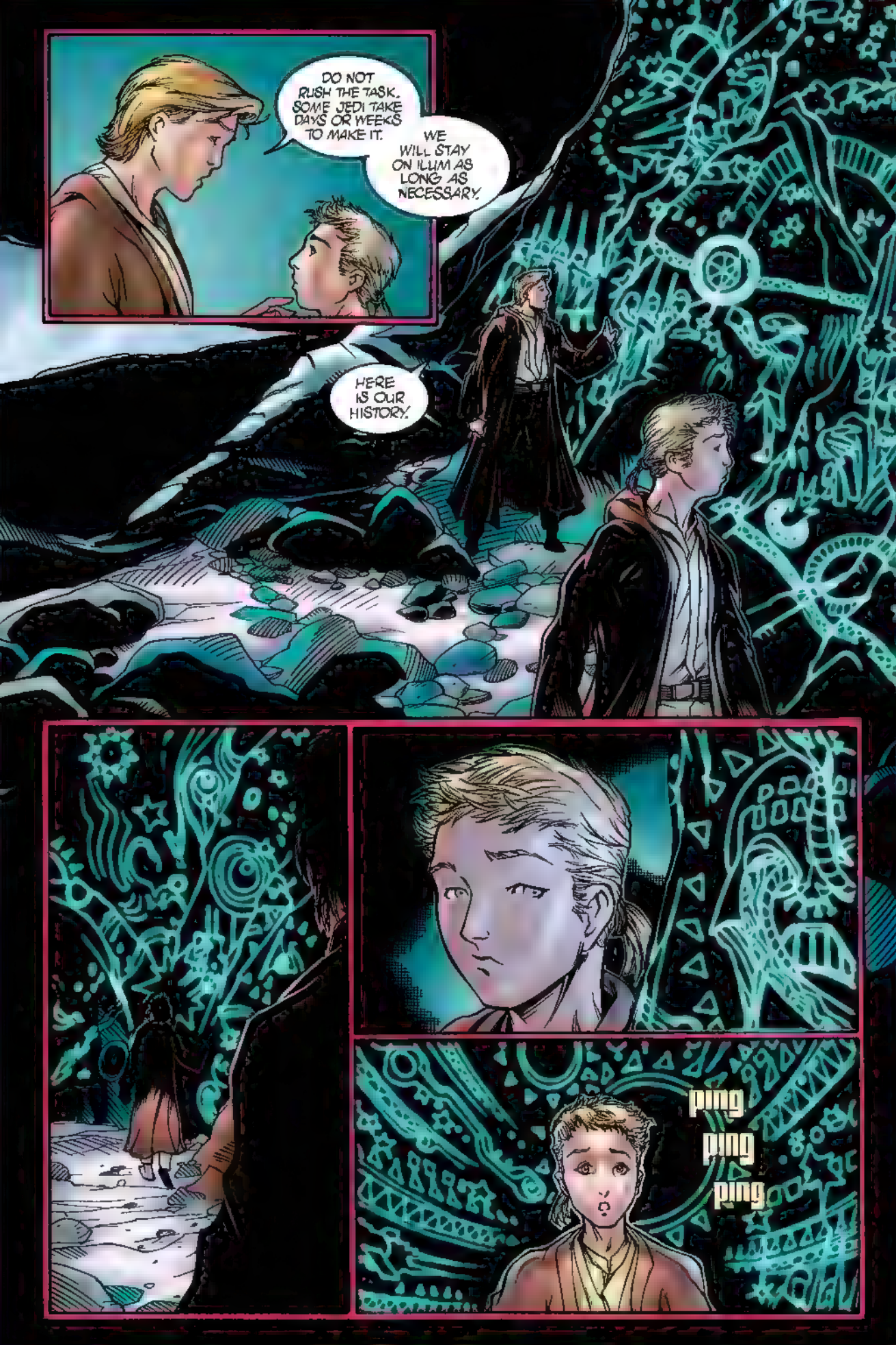
HANDS OVER YOUR HEADS...
...AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.
FORGIVE ME, BUT MY DESIGN PARAMETERS PRECLUDE THE ELEVATION OF MY HANDS ABOVE MY HEAD.
THEN YOU'RE EXCUSED.
BLAM
YOU'RE NOT IN A BARGAINING POSITION. YOU'RE ALSO A LIAR.
WHERE'S THE REAL CARGO?
UNDER-- UNDERNEATH THE FLOOR.
PLEASE! WE'RE UN-ARMED!
IF IT'S OUR CARGO YOU'RE AFTER, YOU CAN HAVE IT. WE'RE JUST TRANSPORTING GRAIN TO HOSK STATION.

GRRRR...
RUTIAN SEPTUPLETS! HOW DID YOU KNOW THEY WERE ON BOARD?
I DIDN'T. I ONLY KNEW THE FREIGHTER'S CREW WAS SEVEN LIFE FORMS SHY OF OUR SENSOR'S COUNT.
THEY'RE WORTH A FORTUNE. IF WE WORKED IT TOGETHER WE COULD BUST THEM OUT OF HERE AND SELL THEM OURSELVES.
SHUT UP, HOKKER.
COME ON, GIRLS! OUT OF THE HOLD!
PLEASE, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DELIVER THEM TO A HUTT IN THE OUTER RIM. IF HE DOESN'T GET THEM, HE'LL BE FURIOUS.
CAN'T WE WORK OUT SOME KIND OF DEAL?
I DON'T MAKE DEALS WITH *AMATEURS*, CAPTAIN...

...BUT IF I CAN FIND A BUYER FOR YOU AND YOUR CREW, I MIGHT JUST LET YOU LIVE.
PLEASE... ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF...
YOU... YOU'RE KRAYN!
AH... MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME.
YOU REALIZE, THIS IS YOUR OWN FAULT FOR STRAYING FROM THE REPUBLIC TRADE ROUTES. BUT THEN AGAIN...
...THERE'S RARELY A JEDI AROUND WHEN YOU NEED ONE.

IS THE PLANET ILUM AS YOU IMAGINED IT, ANAKIN?
YES. WELL, MAYBE A BIT COLDER.
TELL ME, MASTER... WHY DID THE JEDI CHOOSE SUCH A HAZARDOUS SPOT TO KEEP THE ILUM CRYSTALS?
THE CRYSTALS GROW IN A CAVE AT THE TOP OF THIS CLIFF. THAT IS WHERE WE MUST GATHER THEM.
THE CHALLENGE IS PART OF THE REWARD.
I'M NOT COMPLAINING. IT LOOKS LIKE FUN.

NOW COMES THE HARD PART.
THE CRYSTALS ARE DEEP WITHIN.
TO REACH THEM, YOU WILL HAVE TO PASS THROUGH VISIONS AND VOICES.
SOME OF THEM MAY FRIGHTEN YOU. SOME OF THEM ARE DRAWN FROM YOUR OWN PAST.
THEY ARE YOUR DEEPEST FEARS. THAT IS WHAT YOU MUST FACE.
HERE IS THE HILT YOU WORKED ON AND THE OTHER COMPONENTS.
AFTER YOU FIND THE CRYSTALS, YOU WILL FASHION THE LIGHTSABER TO YOUR OWN HAND.


DO NOT RUSH THE TASK. SOME JEDI TAKE DAYS OR WEEKS TO MAKE IT.
WE WILL STAY ON ILUM AS LONG AS NECESSARY.
HERE IS OUR HISTORY.
ping
ping
ping

ping
ping
ping
ping
ping
ping
ping
ping

MOTHER!?
NO!

I'LL KILL YOU!
BRAHAHA
STOP!
THE CRYSTALS.

IT'S TIME.
GO INTO A TRANCE STATE, ANAKIN. CLEANSE YOUR MIND. THEN YOUR FEELINGS WILL GUIDE YOUR INTENT.
NOW BEGIN.
DID I STARTLE YOU?

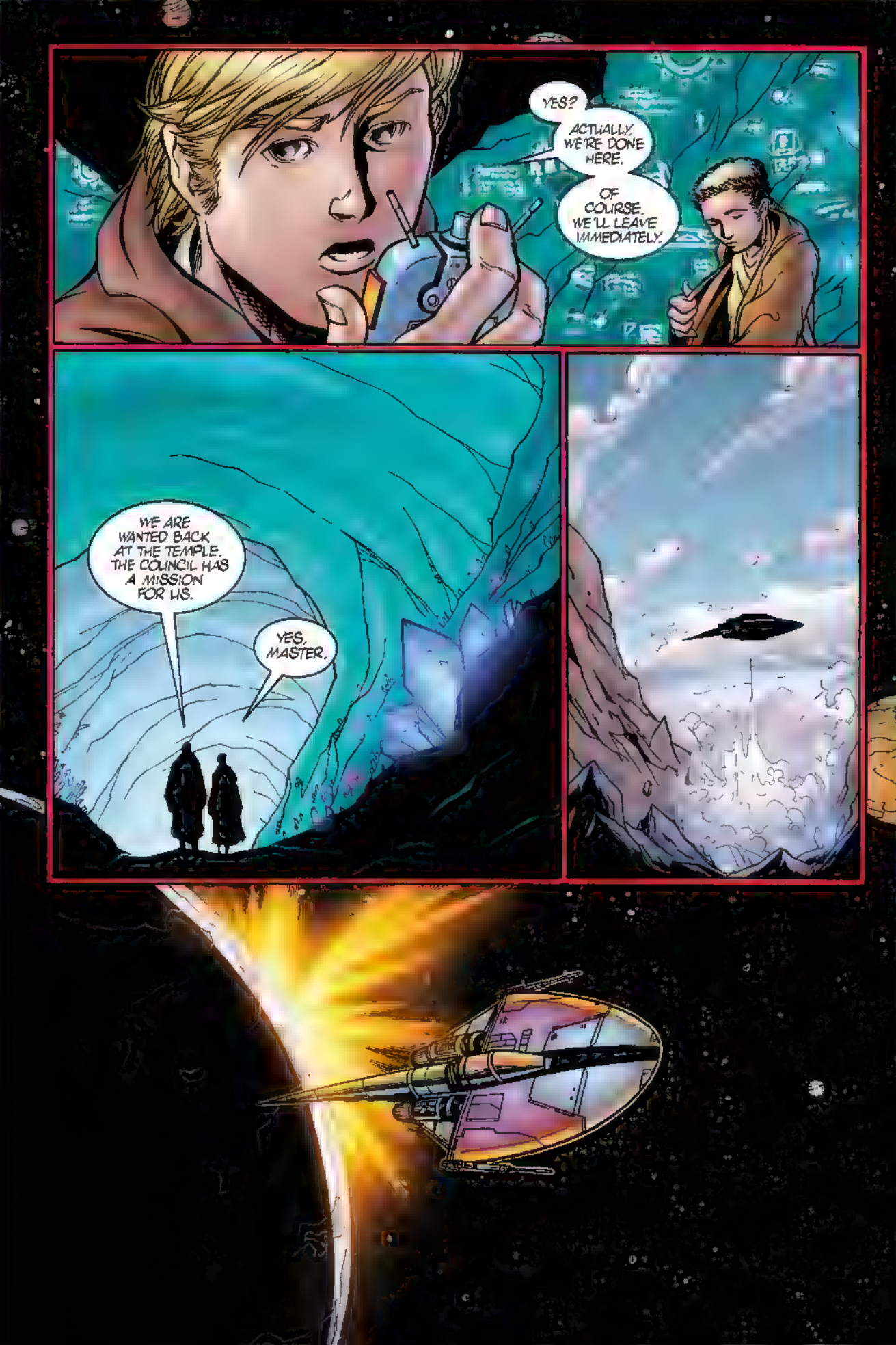
PERHAPS YOU NEED TO WORK ON THOSE JEDI REFLEXES.
YOU'RE ALMOST AS CLUMSY AS QUI-GON JINN.
KRSH
YOUR TRAINING LIGHTSABER IS A BOY'S TOY.
TRY THIS.

WHY DO YOU FEAR YOUR ANGER? WHY DO YOU FEAR YOUR HATE?
PERHAPS YOU'RE AFRAID YOUR NEW TOY WON'T WORK.
VMM
I CAN FEEL IT. YOU HATE ME. IT IS NATURAL. AFTER ALL.
I GUTTED YOUR FRIEND LIKE AN ANIMAL.
VMMMM

YOU SEE WHAT ANGER CAN DO? IT GIVES YOU POWER. IT IS SOMETHING YOU CAN USE LIKE A WEAPON.
YOU THOUGHT THE SAME THING A MOMENT AGO. WHY DENY IT?
NO. I WILL LEARN TO LET MY ANGER GO. I AM A JEDI.
FOOL. THERE ARE OTHER PATHS TO POWER.
IT ISN'T POWER I SEEK.
THEN YOU LIE.
HOW ELSE WILL YOU SAVE THE POOR MOTHER YOU ABANDONED IF YOU DO NOT HAVE POWER?
FWISH

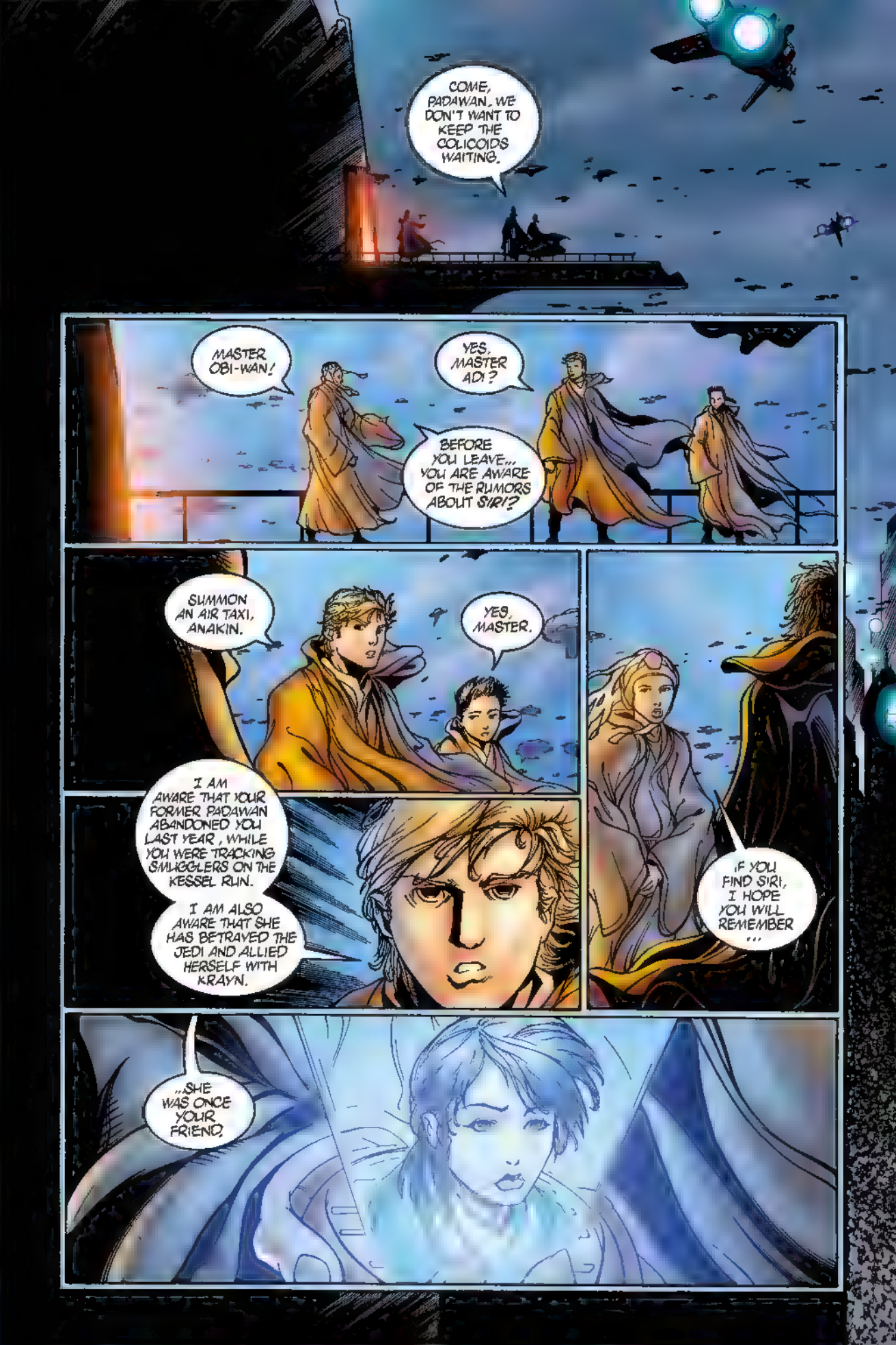
DON'T YOU REMEMBER, BOY? I AM JUST A VISION. YOUR VISION.
I AM THE MASTER YOU SECRETLY WANT.
NO!
THE DARK SIDE CAN DELIVER WHAT YOU MOST DESIRE. ADMIT IT.
I CREATED YOU. I CAN MAKE YOU GO.
BUT I WILL RETURN.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

ARE YOU REAL?
YES, I AM REAL.
WHAT'S THIS?
YOU MADE THIS?
I...I MUST HAVE.
YOU APPEARED TO ME. YOU TOLD ME TO GO INTO A TRANCE STATE. I FELT THE FORCE VERY STRONGLY.
THIS IS A GOOD SIGN, PADAWAN. WHEN YOU ALLOW YOUR INSTINCTS TO TAKE OVER, THEY WILL NOT FAIL YOU.
THE FORCE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.
EVEN HERE DUTY CALLS.
bneep
bneep


YES?
ACTUALLY, WE'RE DONE HERE.
OF COURSE. WE'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
WE ARE WANTED BACK AT THE TEMPLE. THE COUNCIL HAS A MISSION FOR US.
YES, MASTER.

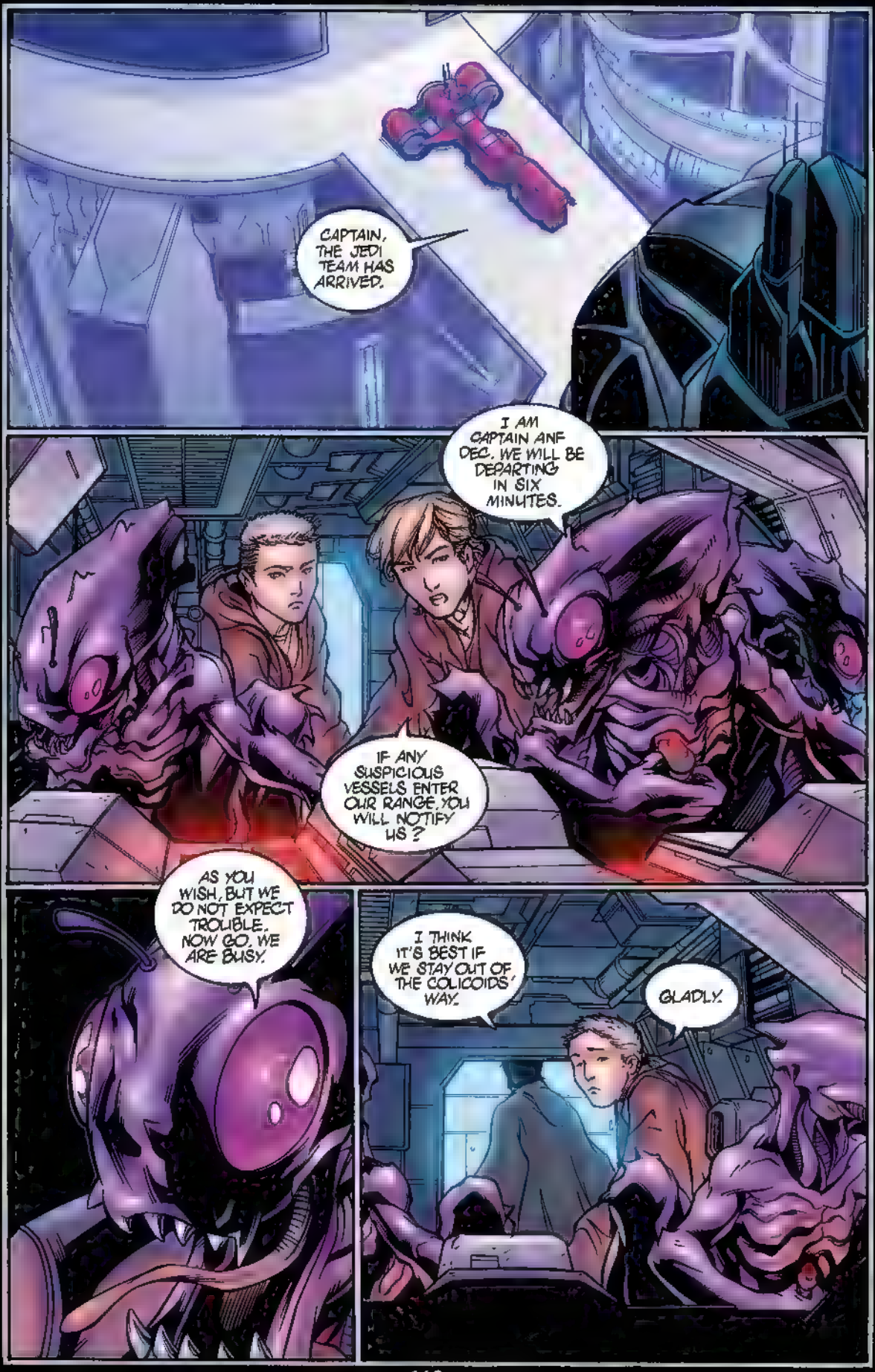
CHANCELLOR PALPATINE HAS REQUESTED A JEDI ESCORT FOR A COLICOID DIPLOMATIC SHIP...
...AND THE COUNCIL HAS CHOSEN YOU FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.
DANGEROUS, THIS MISSION WILL NOT BE, WE BELIEVE. DELICATE, IT IS.
THE COLICOIDS DO NOT WELCOME THE JEDI PRESENCE.
YET NECESSARY THEY KNOW IT IS.
WHAT IS THE THREAT TO THE SHIP?
THE PIRATE KRAYN IS KNOWN TO BE IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE COLICOIDS WILL BE TRAVELING.
KRAYN IS RUTHLESS. WHEN HE HIJACKS SHIPS, HE NOT ONLY STEALS THEIR CARGO, BUT SELLS THEIR INHABITANTS INTO SLAVERY.
HE HAS ATTACKED DIPLOMATIC VESSELS IN THE PAST, BUT WE THINK A JEDI TEAM MIGHT BE A DETERRENT.

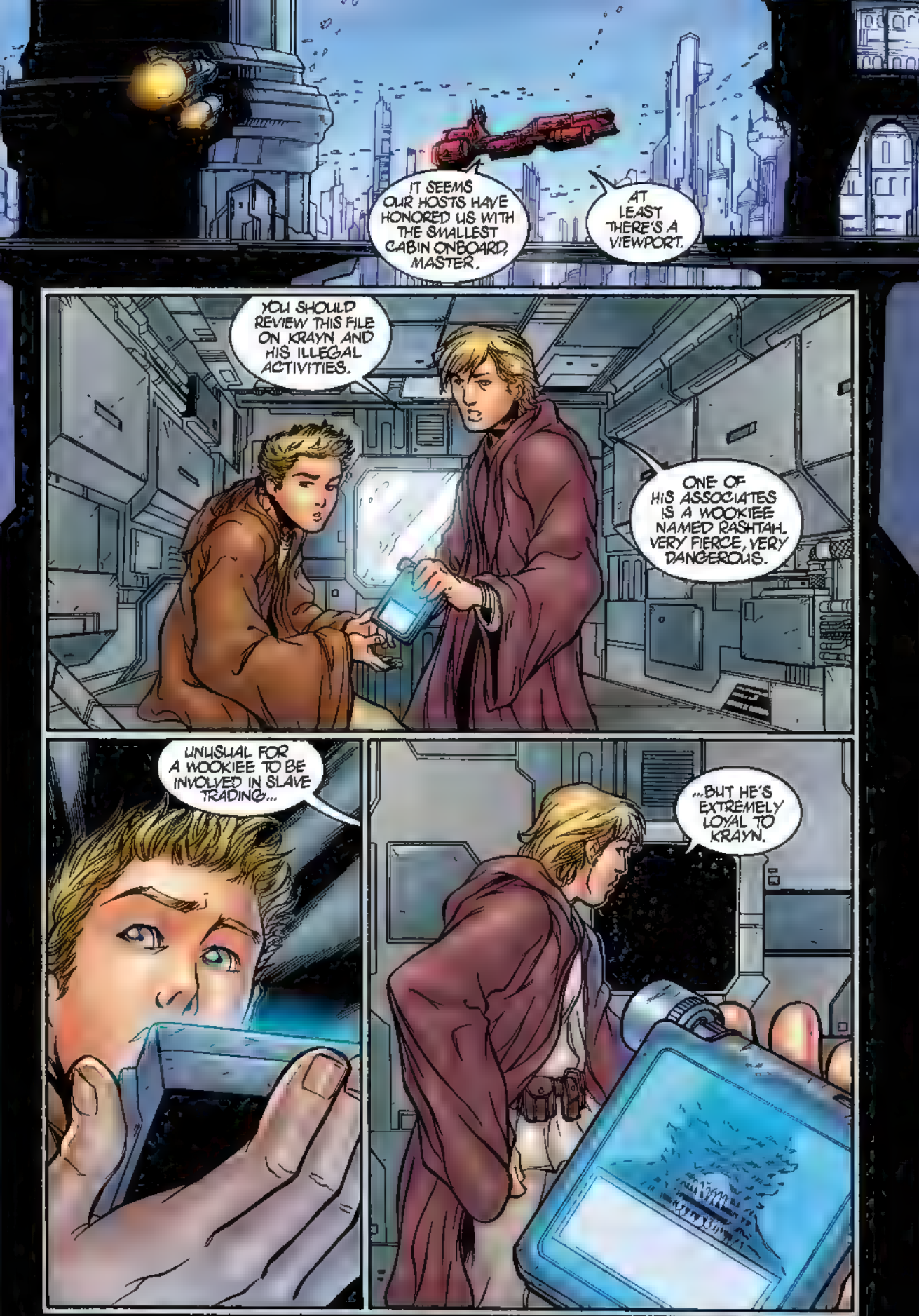
WITH ALL RESPECT, I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT WE ARE THE CORRECT TEAM FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT.
ANAKIN WAS ONCE A SLAVE. HE IS SENSITIVE TO THIS ISSUE. AND AS A YOUNG PADAWAN--
I AM NOT TOO YOUNG! AND I'M NOT TOO SENSITIVE!
DO YOU HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT YOUR PADAWAN? ONLY RECENTLY, YOU STOOD IN THAT VERY SPOT AND VEHEMENTLY ARGUED THAT HE WAS READY FOR THE TRIP TO ILLUM.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR INTERFERING. I THINK I UNDERSTAND OBI-WAN KENOBI'S HESITATION.
EVEN IN MY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF JEDI PROCEDURES, I UNDERSTAND THAT ANAKIN SKYWALKER IS A SPECIAL CASE.
NATURALLY THE JEDI WOULD WISH TO PROTECT HIM MORE THAN ANOTHER JEDI STUDENT.
ANAKIN SKYWALKER IS NOT A SPECIAL CASE. ONLY HIS EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES SET HIM APART. HE IS CERTAINLY NOT IN NEED OF PROTECTION.
PERHAPS I EXPRESSED MYSELF BADLY. I CONSIDER HIM FULLY ABLE TO CONDUCT ANY MISSION THE COUNCIL WISHES TO SEND HIM ON.
MY HESITATION WAS MOMENTARY. I ACCEPT THE MISSION FOR MYSELF AND MY PADAWAN.

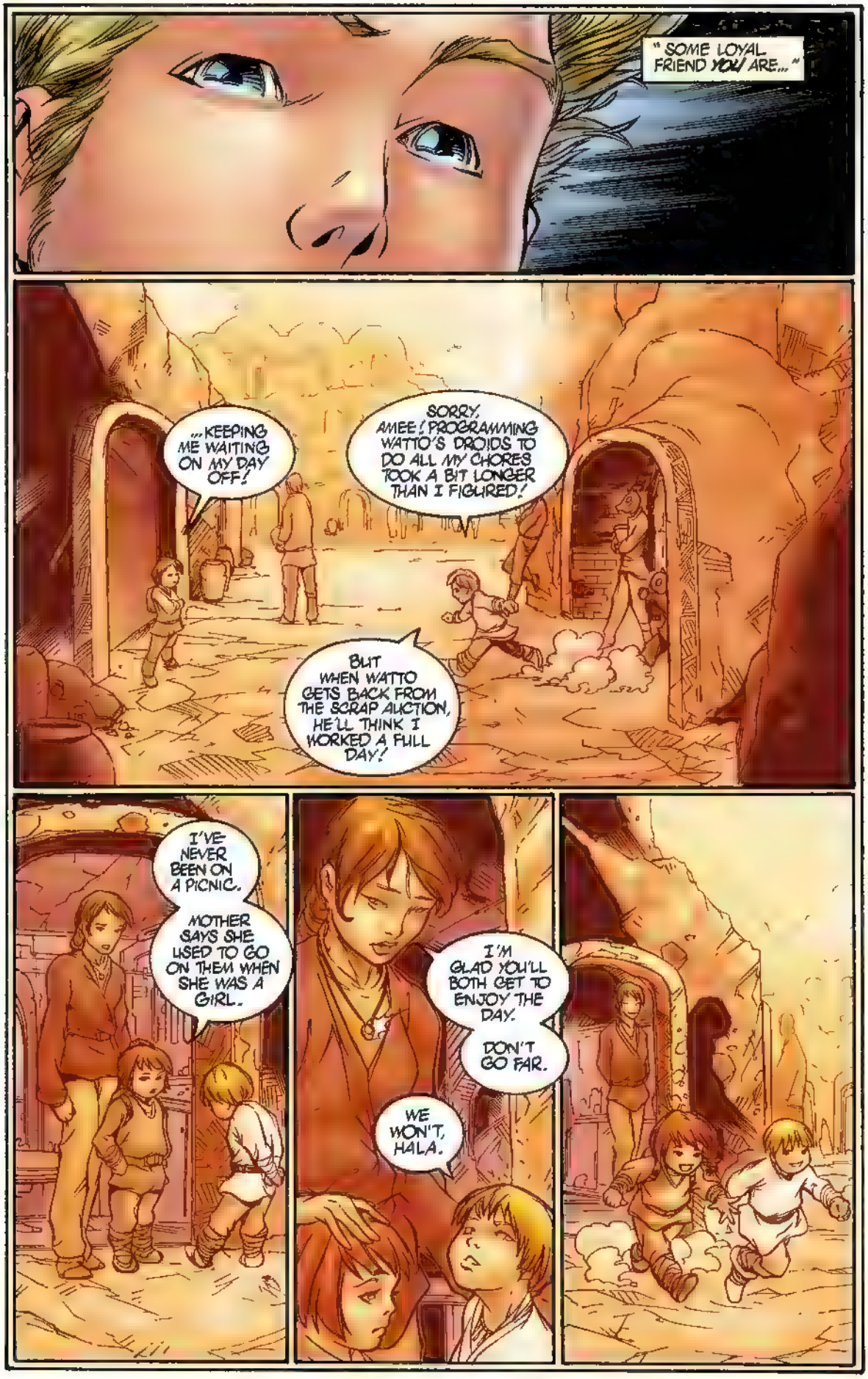

COME, PADAWAN. WE DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE COLICOIDS WAITING.
MASTER OBI-WAN!
YES, MASTER ADI?
BEFORE YOU LEAVE... YOU ARE AWARE OF THE RUMORS ABOUT SIRI?
SUMMON AN AIR TAXI, ANAKIN.
YES, MASTER.
I AM AWARE THAT YOUR FORMER PADAWAN ABANDONED YOU LAST YEAR, WHILE YOU WERE TRACKING SMUGGLERS ON THE KESSEL RUN.
I AM ALSO AWARE THAT SHE HAS BETRAYED THE JEDI AND ALLIED HERSELF WITH KRAYN.
IF YOU FIND SIRI, I HOPE YOU WILL REMEMBER ...
...SHE WAS ONCE YOUR FRIEND.

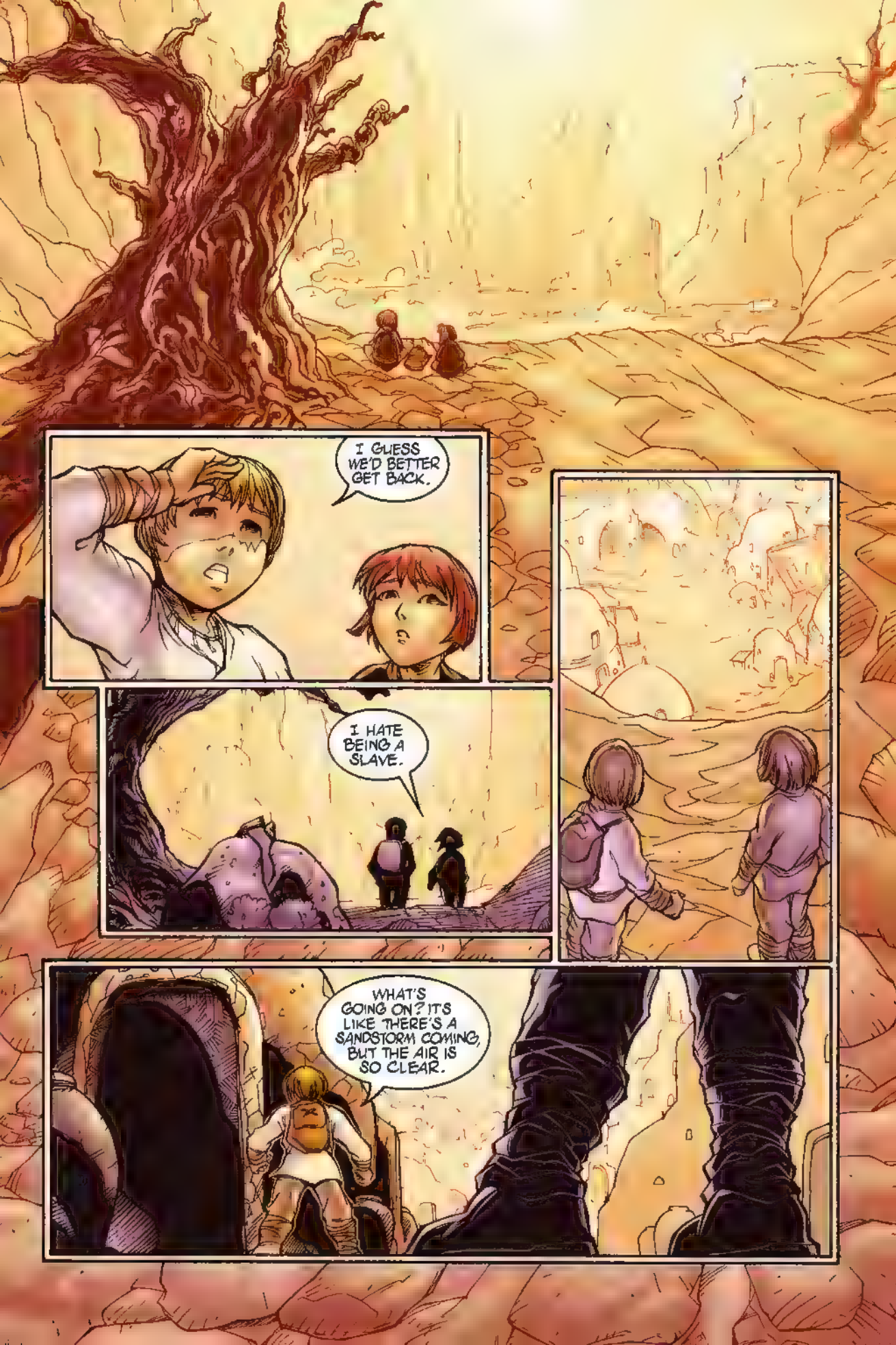
I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE BRODOGON CONSORTIUM PAID A FAIR PRICE FOR THE TWI'LEKS...
THE CAPTAIN HER CREW, AND THE SHIP ALSO SOLD WELL. YOU SHOULD ALL BE VERY PLEASED. HOWEVER...
...MY FIRST MATE HAS INFORMED ME THAT SOMEONE ON THIS SHIP HAS NOT BEEN ENTIRELY HONEST WITH ME.
GRRRNT.
I DON'T ASK FOR MUCH FROM MY CREW, BUT I DO EXPECT SOME COMMON COURTESY.
TAKE OFF THAT MASK.
NOW, I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION--
--THAT EVERYONE HERE WAS SATISFIED WITH MY PERCENTAGE SYSTEM...
...BUT IF ANY OF YOU WERE OPPOSED TO MY RULES AND DIDN'T TELL ME...

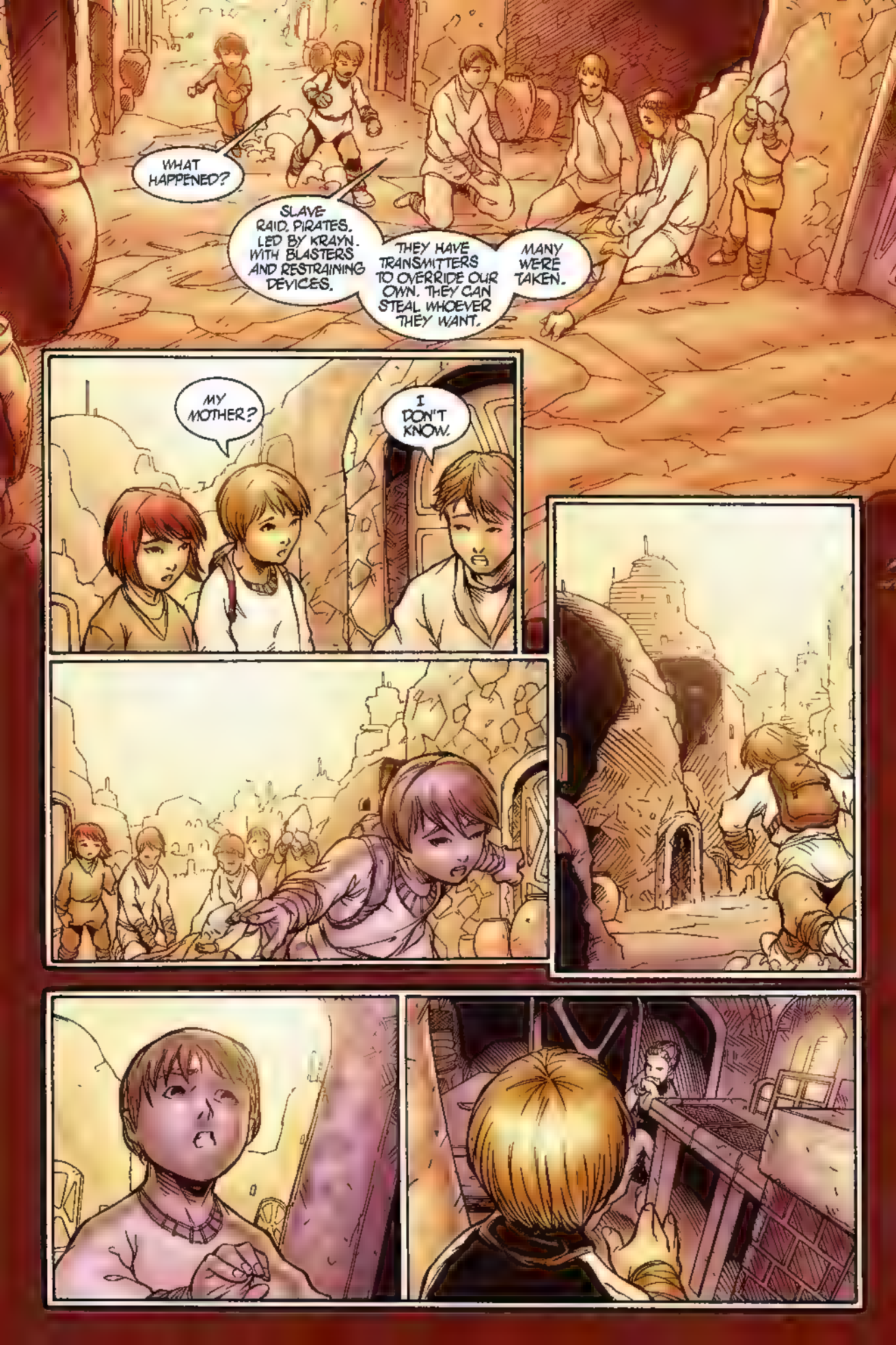
THAT WOULD BE RUDE.
WHUD
THROW HOKKER IN THE BRIG.
THE ONLY REASON I'VE SPARED HOKKER'S LIFE IS BECAUSE HE'S A NEW RECRUIT. IT'S POSSIBLE HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW I FELT ABOUT LOYALTY.
SO...DOES OUR OTHER NEW RECRUIT HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
YEAH. WHAT'S OUR NEXT JOB, BOSS?
WE'RE ON AN INTERCEPT COURSE FOR A COLICOID DIPLOMATIC SHIP.
SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK THE COLICOIDS WILL BE REACHING THEIR DESTINATION!

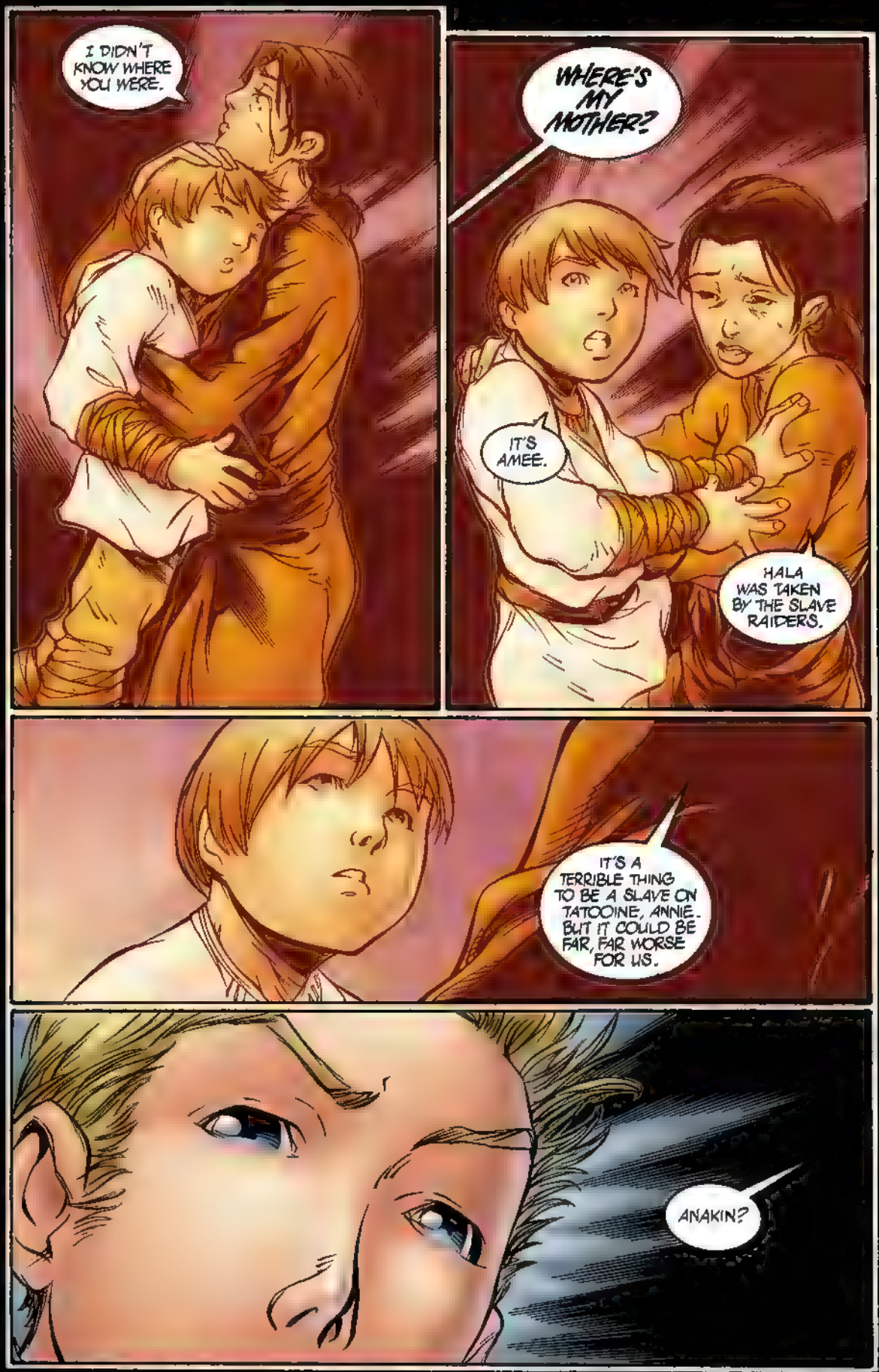

CAPTAIN, THE JEDI TEAM HAS ARRIVED.
I AM CAPTAIN ANF DEC. WE WILL BE DEPARTING IN SIX MINUTES.
IF ANY SUSPICIOUS VESSELS ENTER OUR RANGE, YOU WILL NOTIFY US?
AS YOU WISH, BUT WE DO NOT EXPECT TROUBLE. NOW GO, WE ARE BUSY.
I THINK IT'S BEST IF WE STAY OUT OF THE COLICOIDS' WAY.
GLADLY.


IT SEEMS OUR HOSTS HAVE HONORED US WITH THE SMALLEST CABIN ONBOARD, MASTER.
AT LEAST THERE'S A VIEWPORT.
YOU SHOULD REVIEW THIS FILE ON KRAYN AND HIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.
ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES IS A WOOKIEE NAMED RASHTAH. VERY FIERCE, VERY DANGEROUS.
UNUSUAL FOR A WOOKIEE TO BE INVOLVED IN SLAVE TRADING...
...BUT HE'S EXTREMELY LOYAL TO KRAYN.

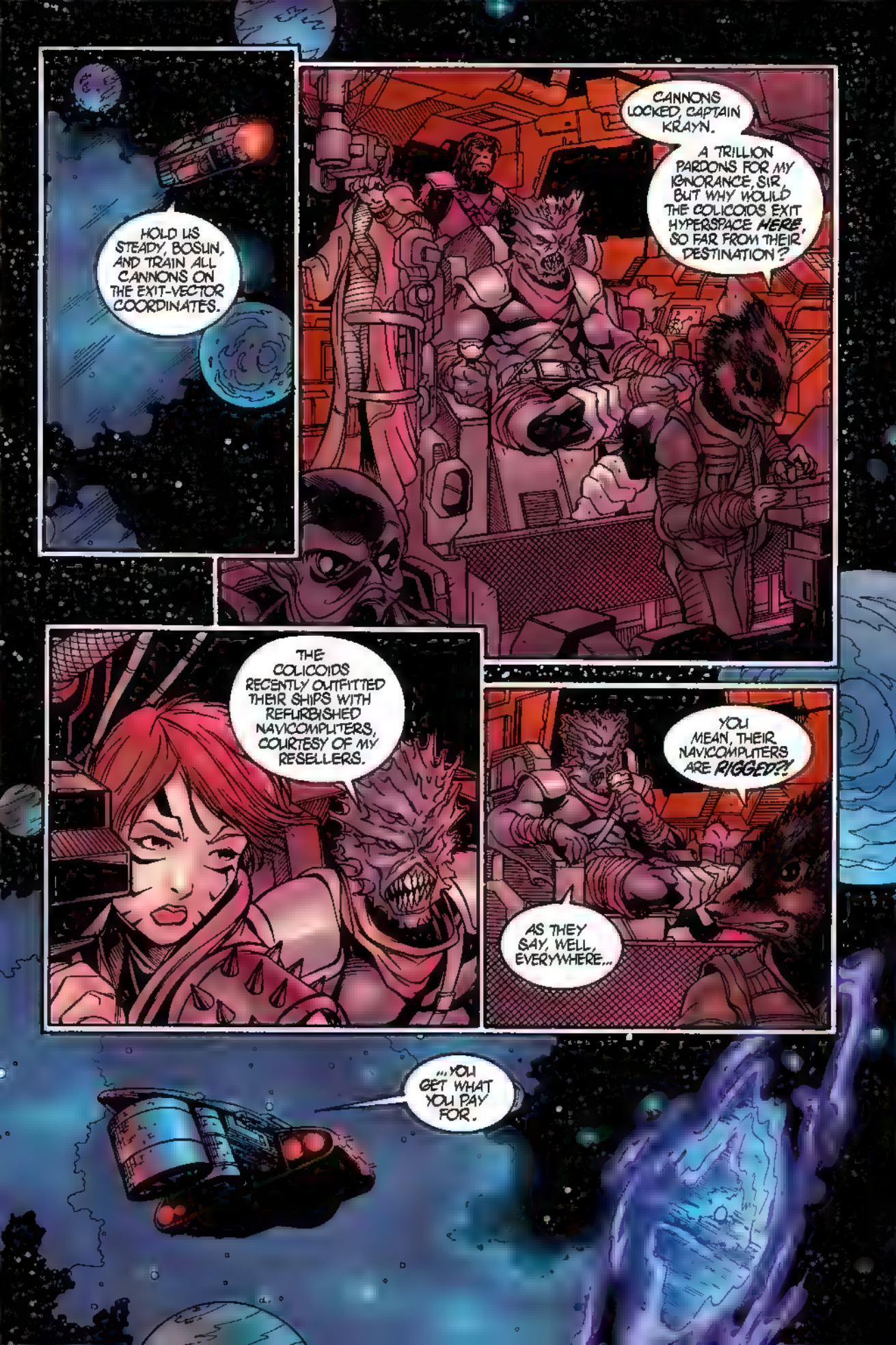

"SOME LOYAL FRIEND YOU ARE..."
...KEEPING ME WAITING ON MY DAY OFF!
SORRY, AMEE! PROGRAMMING WATTO'S DROIDS TO DO ALL MY CHORES TOOK A BIT LONGER THAN I FIGURED!
BUT WHEN WATTO GETS BACK FROM THE SCRAP AUCTION, HE'LL THINK I WORKED A FULL DAY!
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A PICNIC.
MOTHER SAYS SHE USED TO GO ON THEM WHEN SHE WAS A GIRL.
I'M GLAD YOU'LL BOTH GET TO ENJOY THE DAY.
DON'T GO FAR.
WE WON'T, HALA.


I GUESS WE'D BETTER GET BACK.
I HATE BEING A SLAVE.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S LIKE THERE'S A SANDSTORM COMING, BUT THE AIR IS SO CLEAR.


WHAT HAPPENED?
SLAVE RAID. PIRATES. LED BY KRAYN. WITH BLASTERS AND RESTRAINING DEVICES.
THEY HAVE TRANSMITTERS TO OVERRIDE OUR OWN. THEY CAN STEAL WHOEVER THEY WANT.
MANY WERE TAKEN.
MY MOTHER?
I DON'T KNOW.

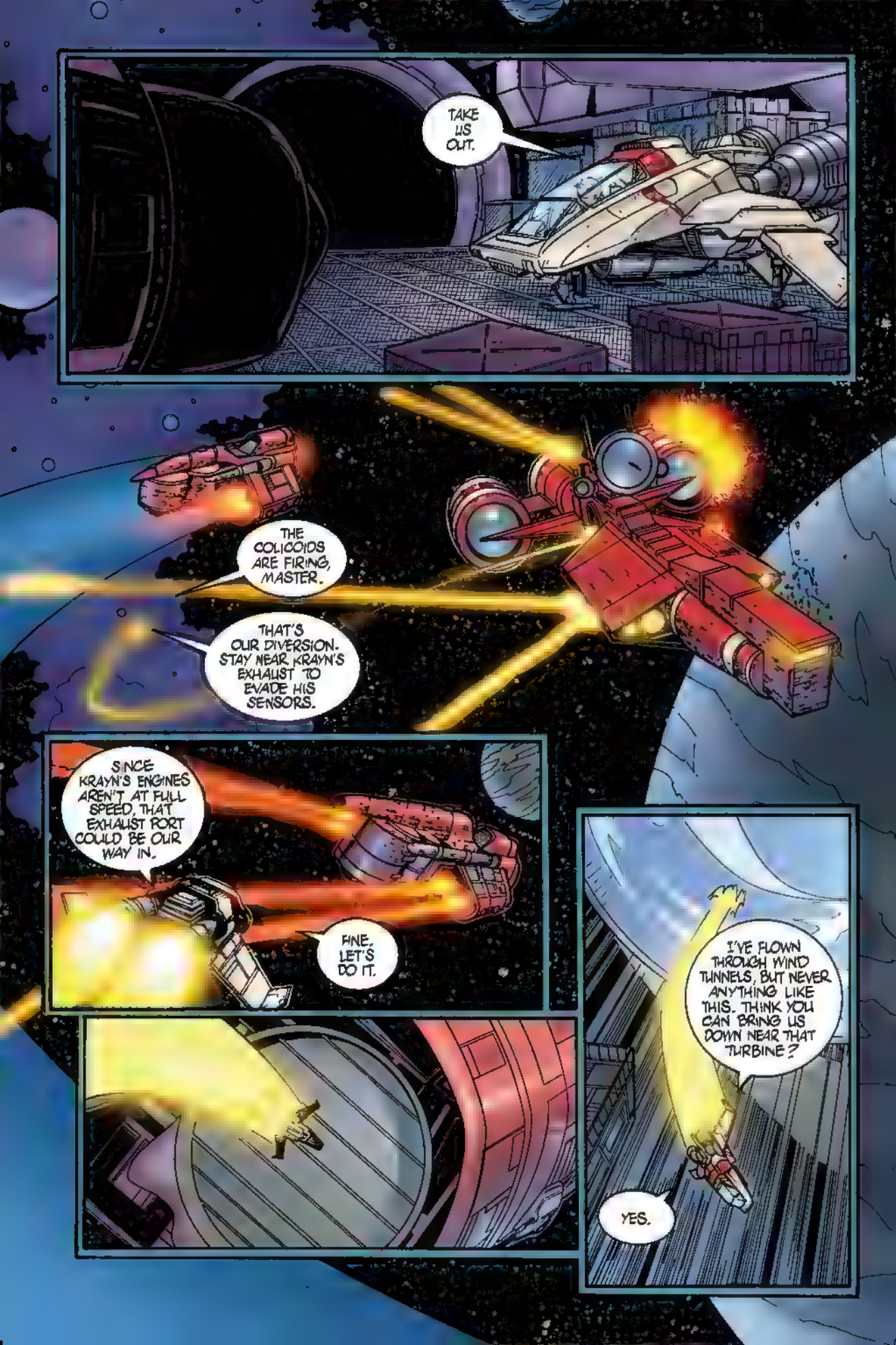

I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE YOU WERE.
WHERE'S MY MOTHER?
IT'S AMEE.
HALA WAS TAKEN BY THE SLAVE RAIDERS.
IT'S A TERRIBLE THING TO BE A SLAVE ON TATOOINE, ANNIE. BUT IT COULD BE FAR, FAR WORSE FOR US.
ANAKIN?

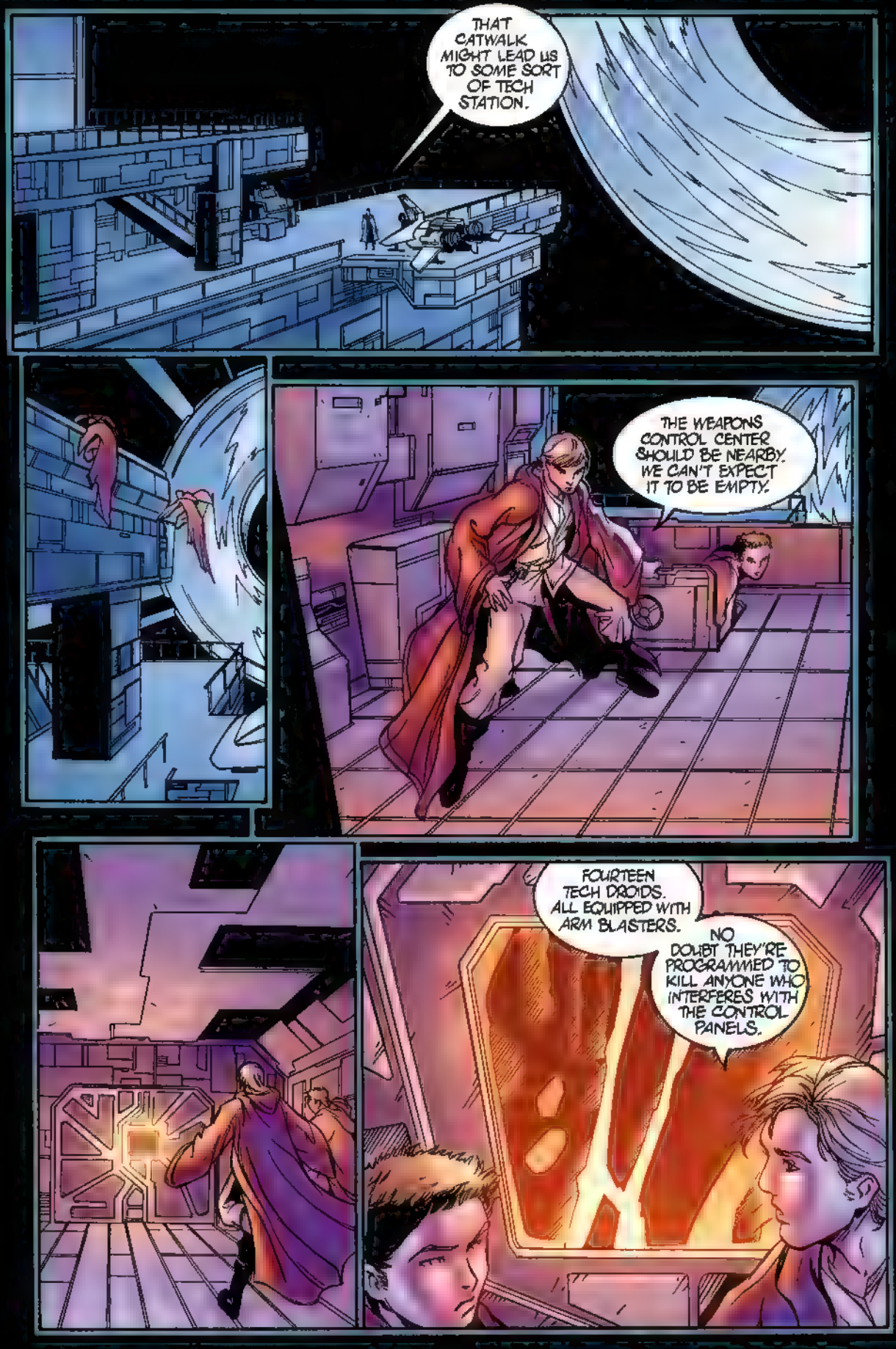
YES, MASTER?
I WONDER... HAD YOU HEARD OF KRAYN BEFORE WE WERE BRIEFED BY THE COUNCIL?
I KNOW HIS KIND.

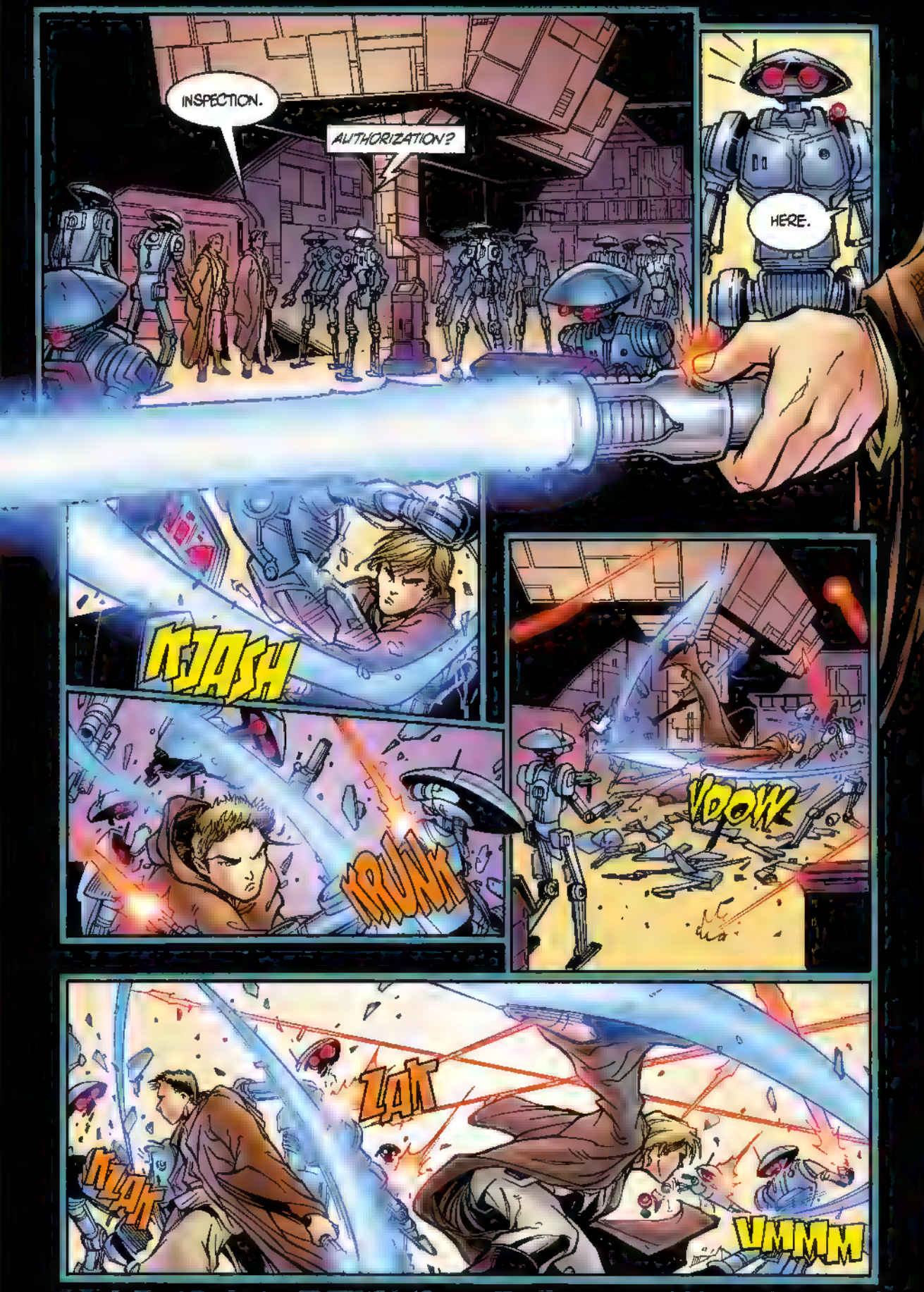

HOLD US STEADY, BOSUN, AND TRAIN ALL CANNONS ON THE EXIT-VECTOR COORDINATES.
CANNONS LOCKED, CAPTAIN KRAYN.
A TRILLION PARDONS FOR MY IGNORANCE, SIR, BUT WHY WOULD THE COLICOIDS EXIT HYPERSPACE *HERE*, SO FAR FROM THEIR DESTINATION?
THE COLICOIDS RECENTLY OUTFITTED THEIR SHIPS WITH REFURBISHED NAVICOMPUTERS, COURTESY OF MY RESELLERS.
YOU MEAN, THEIR NAVICOMPUTERS ARE *RIGGED*?!
AS THEY SAY, WELL, EVERYWHERE...
...YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.

FIRE.
TAK
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK. HEAD FOR THE BRIDGE.

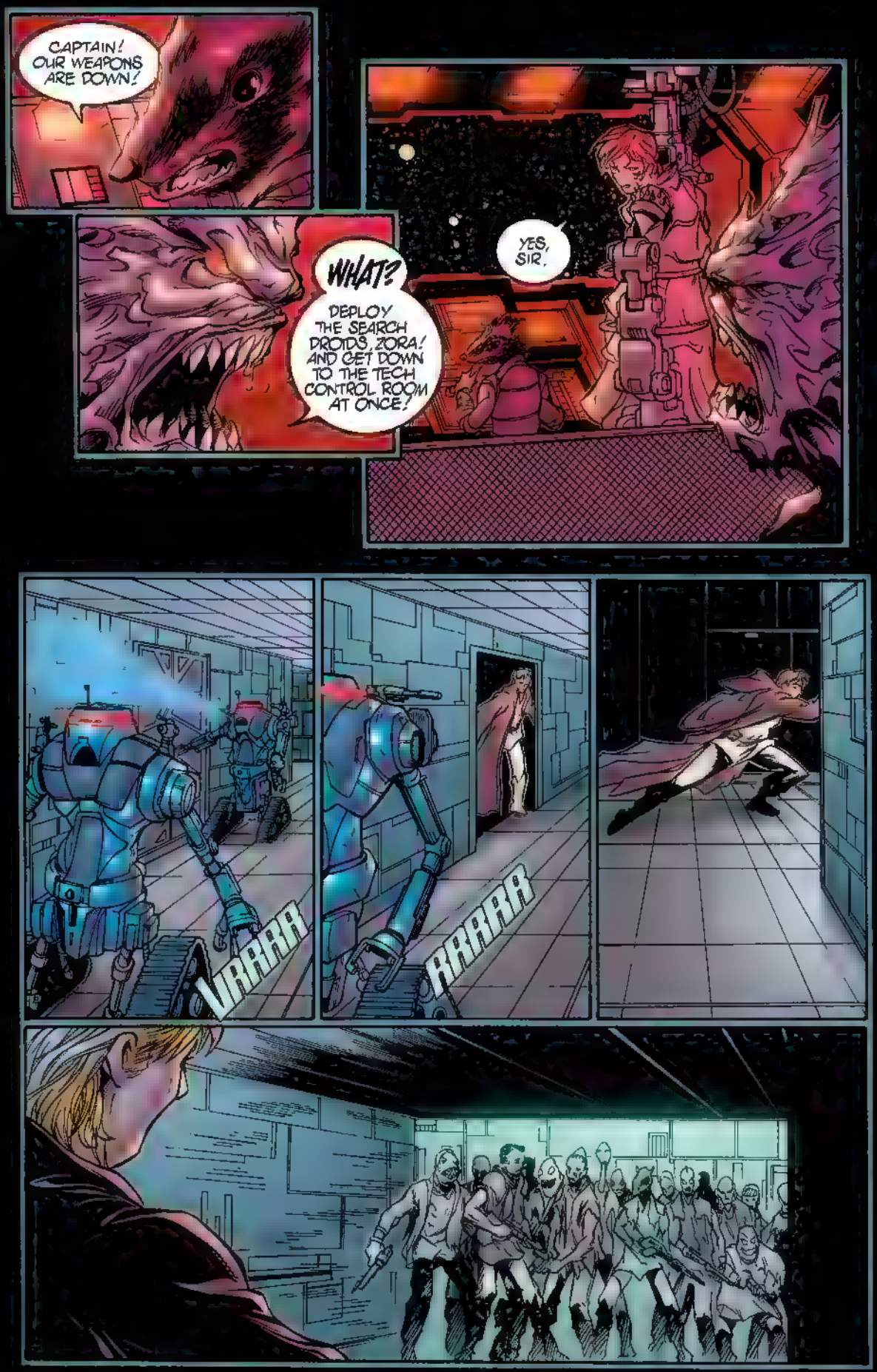
WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IN BLAZES HAPPENED TO OUR HYPERDRIVE?
THE NAVICOMPUTER'S DOWN, SIR! KRAYN IS OFF TO OUR PORT! WE'VE TAKEN A HIT TO THE FUEL DRIVER!
WHAT IS HE DOING? DOESN'T HE KNOW WHO WE ARE?
PORT-SIDE DEFLECTOR SHIELD IS DOWN! WE COULDN'T GET IT OPERATIONAL IN TIME!
IDIOTS!
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL ESCAPE DESTRUCTION OR CAPTURE IS TO INFILTRATE KRAYN'S SHIP AND DISABLE HIS WEAPONS SYSTEM.
WILL YOU PROVIDE US WITH ONE OF YOUR TRANSPORTS ... AND A DIVERSION?
DO WHAT YOU WANT. JUST DO SOMETHING!

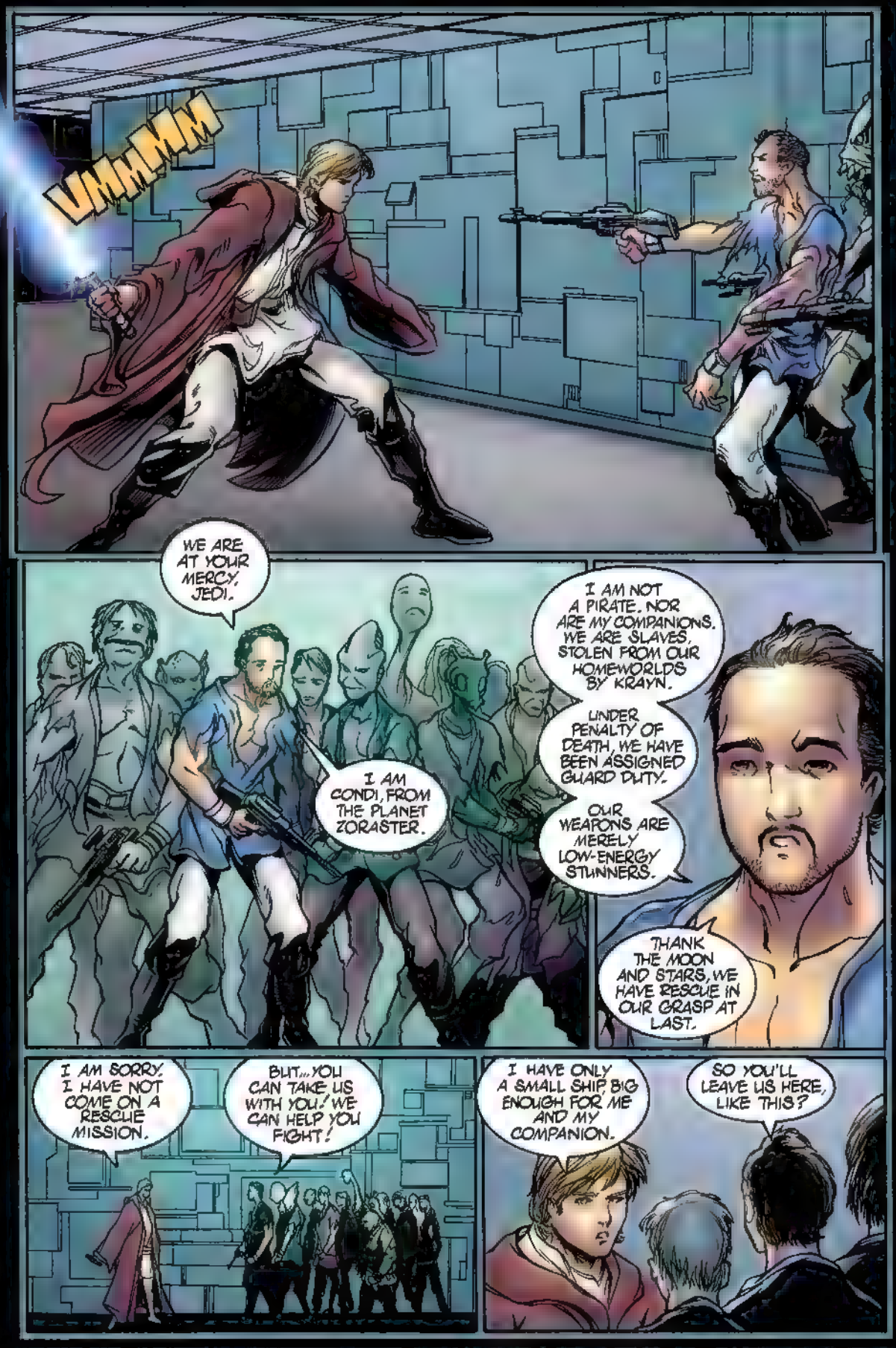

TAKE US OUT.
THE COLICOIDS ARE FIRING, MASTER.
THAT'S OUR DIVERSION. STAY NEAR KRAYN'S EXHAUST TO EVADE HIS SENSORS.
SINCE KRAYN'S ENGINES AREN'T AT FULL SPEED, THAT EXHAUST PORT COULD BE OUR WAY IN.
FINE. LET'S DO IT.
I'VE FLOWN THROUGH WIND TUNNELS, BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THIS. THINK YOU CAN BRING US DOWN NEAR THAT TURBINE?
YES.


THAT CATWALK MIGHT LEAD US TO SOME SORT OF TECH STATION.
THE WEAPONS CONTROL CENTER SHOULD BE NEARBY. WE CAN'T EXPECT IT TO BE EMPTY.
FOURTEEN TECH DROIDS. ALL EQUIPPED WITH ARM BLASTERS.
NO DOUBT THEY'RE PROGRAMMED TO KILL ANYONE WHO INTERFERES WITH THE CONTROL PANELS.

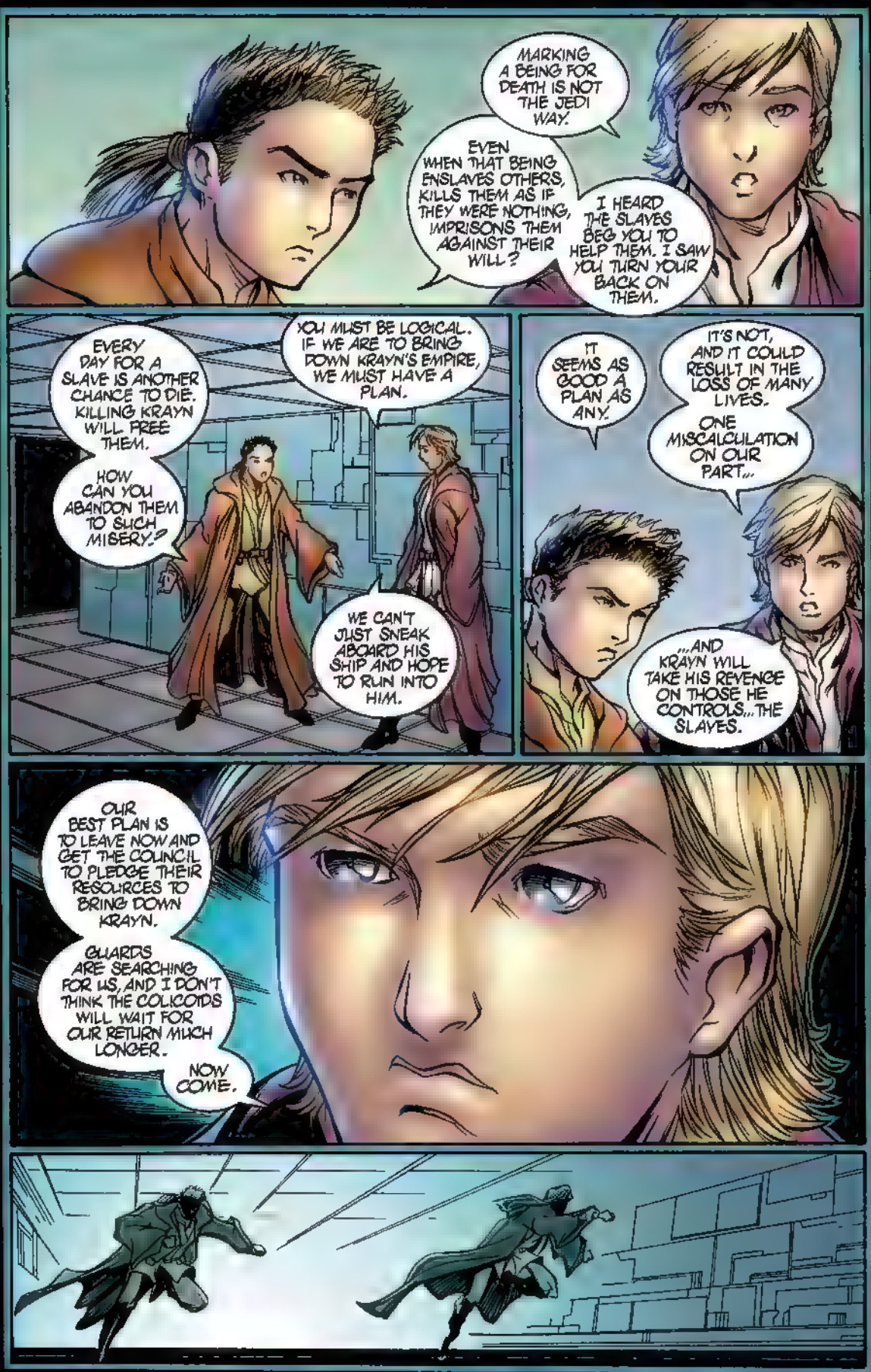

INSPECTION.
AUTHORIZATION?
HERE.
KJASH
KRUNK
KROOK
ZAK
KLAK
UMMM

NOW FOR THE WEAPONS SYSTEM.
ZAAK
THAT SHOULD DO IT. LET'S GO.
I CAN'T LEAVE. WE AREN'T FINISHED.
WE HAVE TO DESTROY KRAYN.
THAT IS NOT OUR MISSION...
ANAKIN?!


CAPTAIN! OUR WEAPONS ARE DOWN!
WHAT?
DEPLOY THE SEARCH DROIDS, ZORA! AND GET DOWN TO THE TECH CONTROL ROOM AT ONCE!
YES, SIR.
VRARR
RRARR


VMMMMM
WE ARE AT YOUR MERCY, JEDI.
I AM CONDI, FROM THE PLANET ZORASTER.
I AM NOT A PIRATE. NOR ARE MY COMPANIONS. WE ARE SLAVES, STOLEN FROM OUR HOMEWORLDS BY KRAYN.
UNDER PENALTY OF DEATH, WE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED GUARD DUTY.
OUR WEAPONS ARE MERELY LOW-ENERGY STUNNERS.
THANK THE MOON AND STARS, WE HAVE RESCUE IN OUR GRASP AT LAST.
I AM SORRY. I HAVE NOT COME ON A RESCUE MISSION.
BUT... YOU CAN TAKE US WITH YOU! WE CAN HELP YOU FIGHT!
I HAVE ONLY A SMALL SHIP, BIG ENOUGH FOR ME AND MY COMPANION.
SO YOU'LL LEAVE US HERE, LIKE THIS?

I WILL DO MY BEST TO HELP YOU. BUT NOT HERE. NOT NOW.
I MUST GET OFF THIS SHIP.
THEN WE WILL HELP YOU.
THAT I WILL NOT ALLOW. IT WOULD PUT YOU IN DANGER.
THE BEST THING WE CAN DO FOR EACH OTHER IS PART WAYS HERE.
THEN... WE HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU, JEDI. BUT I BEG YOU...
...DO NOT FORGET US.
ANAKIN!
THERE ARE PATROLS EVERYWHERE. I CAN'T FIND KRAYN.
THERE'S NO TIME TO ARGUE. WE MUST LEAVE THIS SHIP AT ONCE.
BUT KRAYN IS HERE NOW.
WE CAN DESTROY HIM.


I HEARD THE SLAVES BEG YOU TO HELP THEM. I SAW YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THEM.
EVEN WHEN THAT BEING ENSLAVES OTHERS, KILLS THEM AS IF THEY WERE NOTHING, IMPRISONS THEM AGAINST THEIR WILL?
MARKING A BEING FOR DEATH IS NOT THE JEDI WAY.
HOW CAN YOU ABANDON THEM TO SUCH MISERY?
EVERY DAY FOR A SLAVE IS ANOTHER CHANCE TO DIE. KILLING KRAYN WILL FREE THEM.
YOU MUST BE LOGICAL. IF WE ARE TO BRING DOWN KRAYN'S EMPIRE, WE MUST HAVE A PLAN.
WE CAN'T JUST SNEAK ABOARD HIS SHIP AND HOPE TO RUN INTO HIM.
IT SEEMS AS GOOD A PLAN AS ANY.
IT'S NOT, AND IT COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF MANY LIVES.
ONE MISCALCULATION ON OUR PART...
...AND KRAYN WILL TAKE HIS REVENGE ON THOSE HE CONTROLS...THE SLAVES.
OUR BEST PLAN IS TO LEAVE NOW AND GET THE COUNCIL TO PLEDGE THEIR RESOURCES TO BRING DOWN KRAYN.
GUARDS ARE SEARCHING FOR US, AND I DON'T THINK THE COLICOIDS WILL WAIT FOR OUR RETURN MUCH LONGER.
NOW COME.

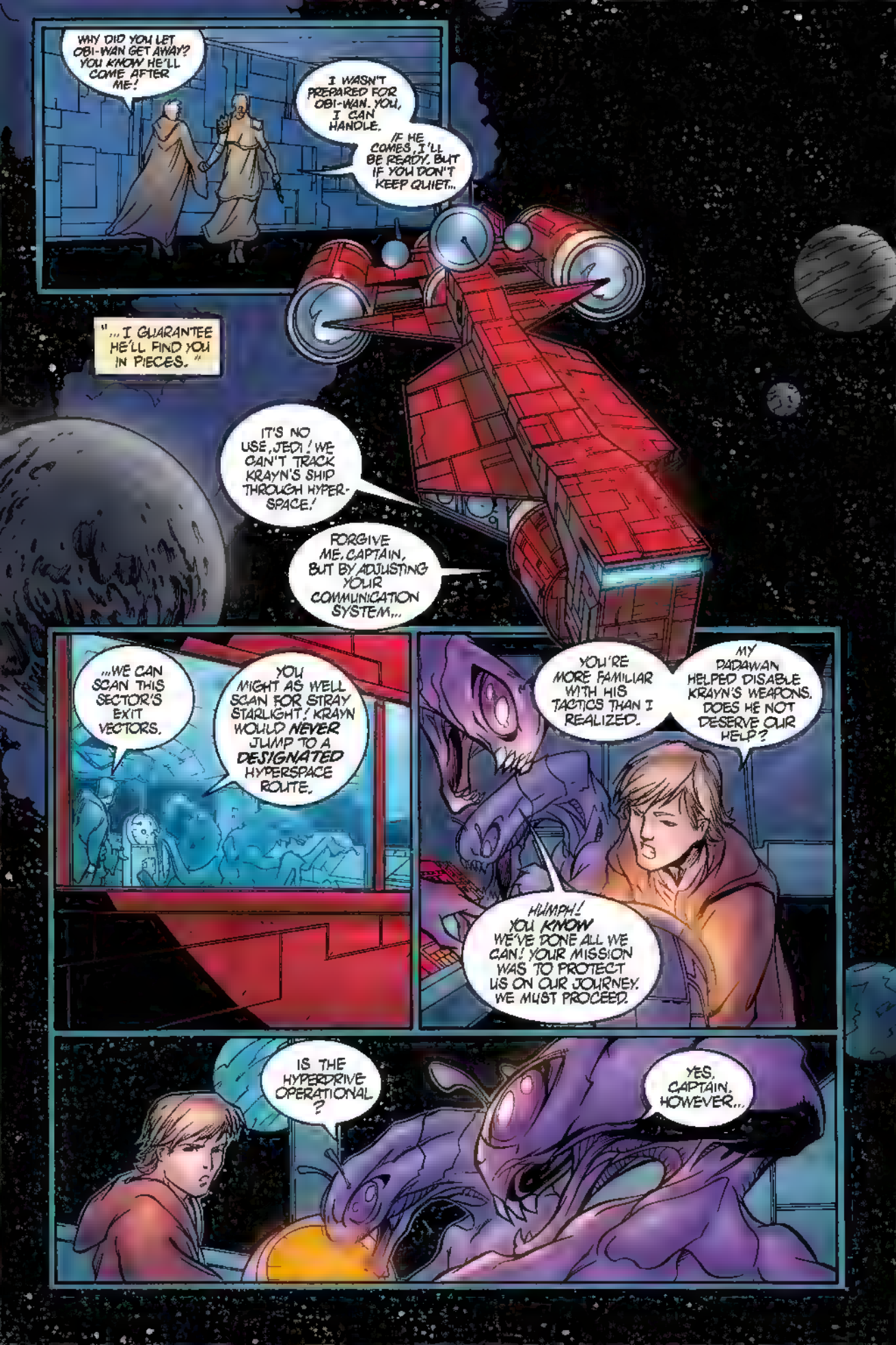
ANAKIN!
SIRI?!
LORA?
KRAYN.

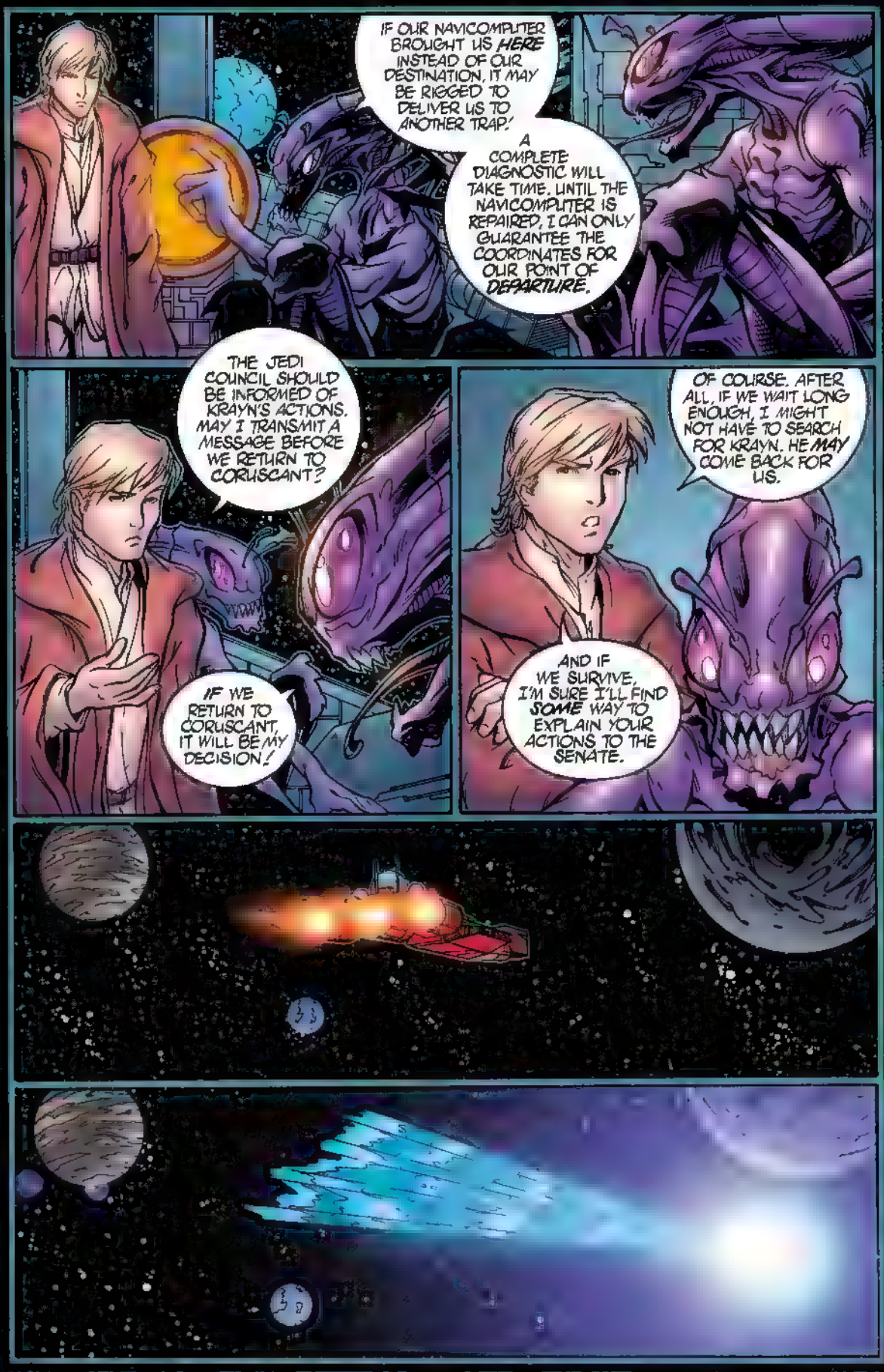
CHK
JANNG
KLAK
KRAK

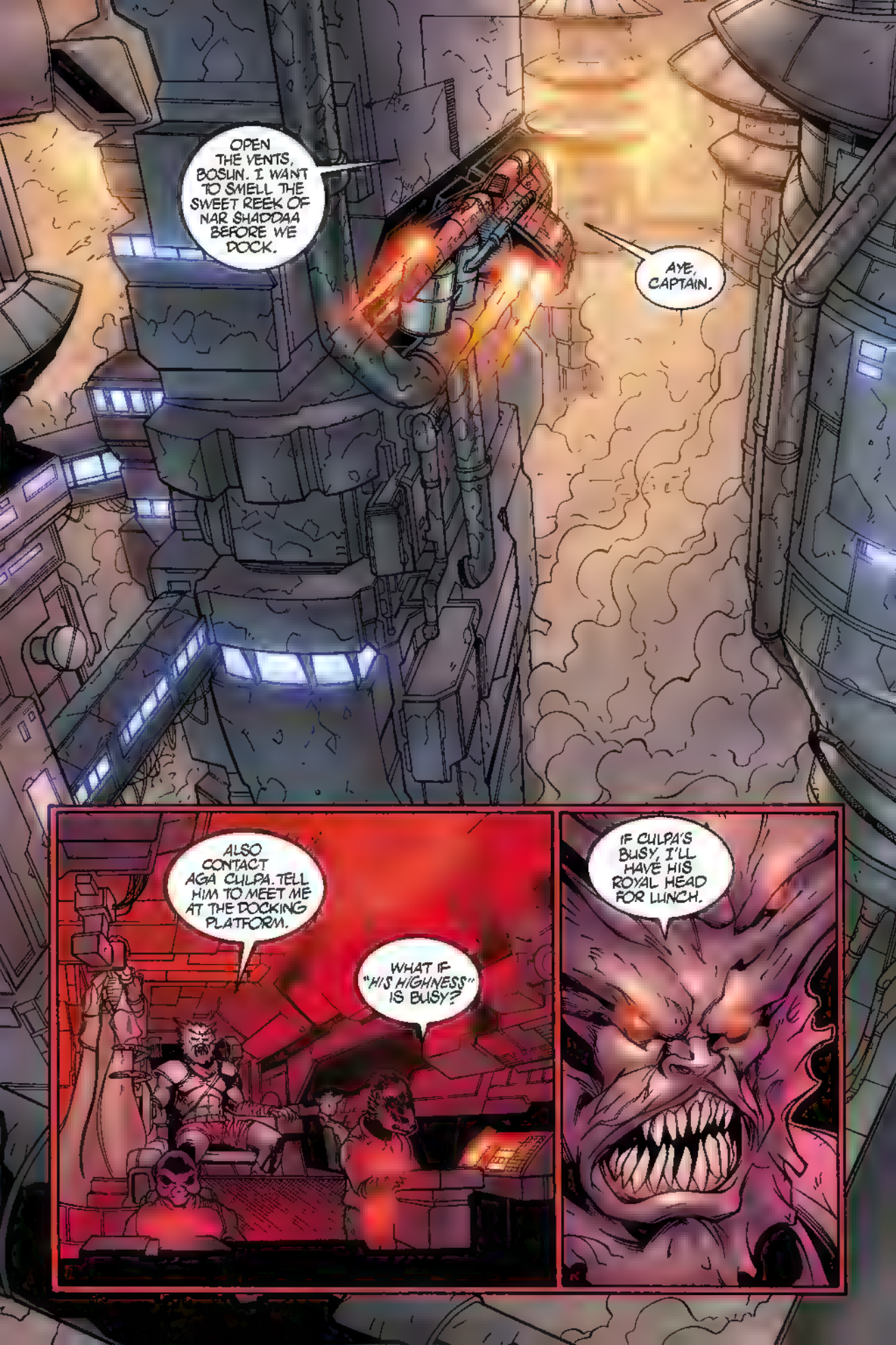
WHAT'S THIS, ZORA? HAVE YOU CAUGHT AN INTRUDER?
NO. JUST A SLAVE. I GRABBED HIM AS A SHIELD, BUT HE WASN'T NEEDED.
I'M AFRAID THE INTRUDERS TOOK THE EXHAUST TUNNEL BACK INTO SPACE.
HOW UNFORTUNATE. GRANTED, IF THEY WERE IN THE SHAFT *AFTER* I GAVE THE ORDER TO JUMP TO HYPERSPACE, *NOW* THEY'RE NOTHING BUT SPACE DUST.

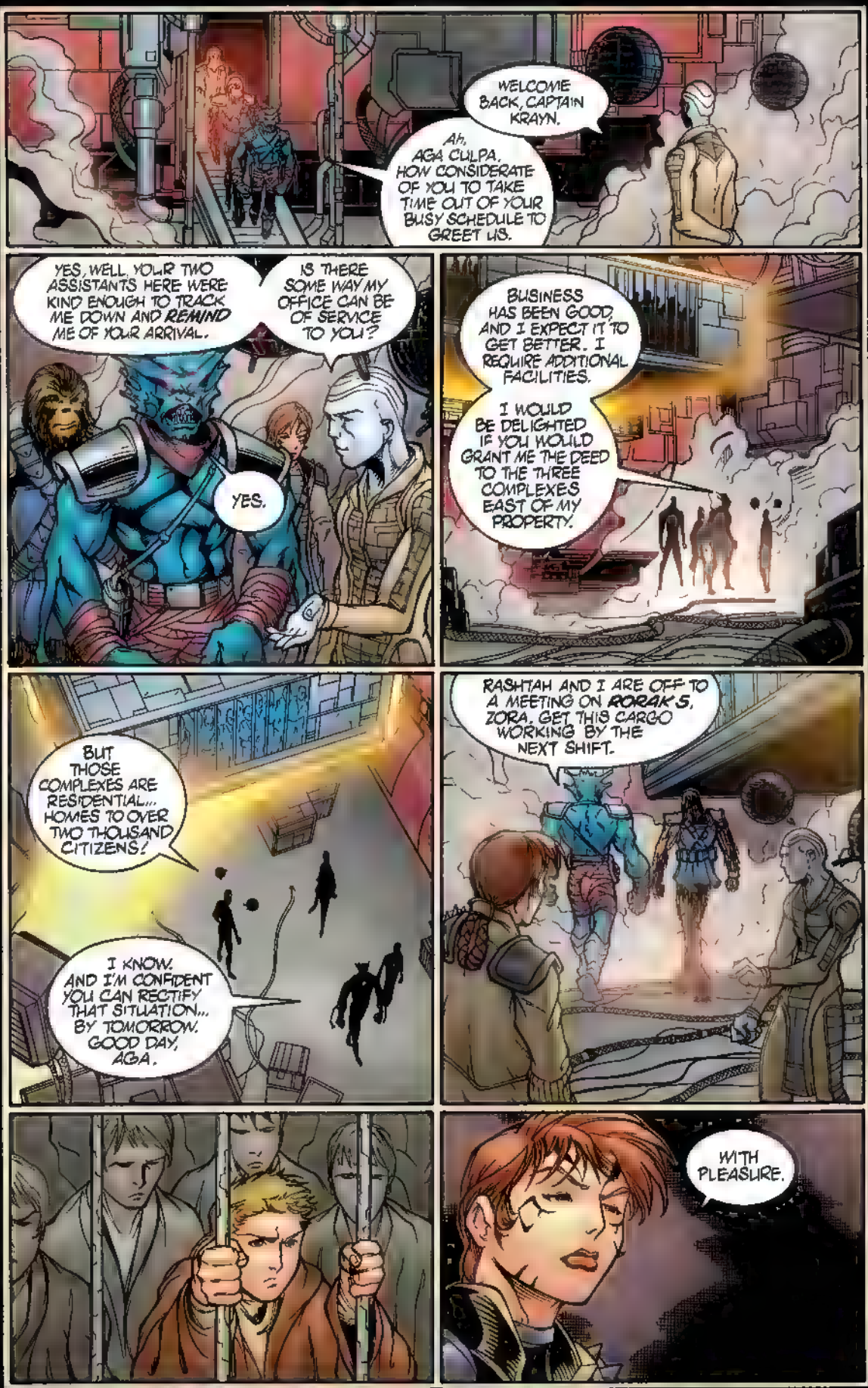
I'LL HAVE THE CHIEF ENGINEER SCREEN THE EXHAUST PORT IMMEDIATELY.
WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE UNWELCOME GUESTS. WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, SLAVE?
SHOW SOME RESPECT.
EASY, ZORA. I CAN'T BLAME YOUR "SHIELD" FOR ADMIRING MY KILL TROPHIES...
...BUT HE'D BETTER NOT TRY TO SNATCH ONE FROM ME IF HE VALUES HIS FINGERS.
HE LOOKS STRONG. SHOULD FETCH A GOOD PRICE...
...ON NAR SHADDAA.

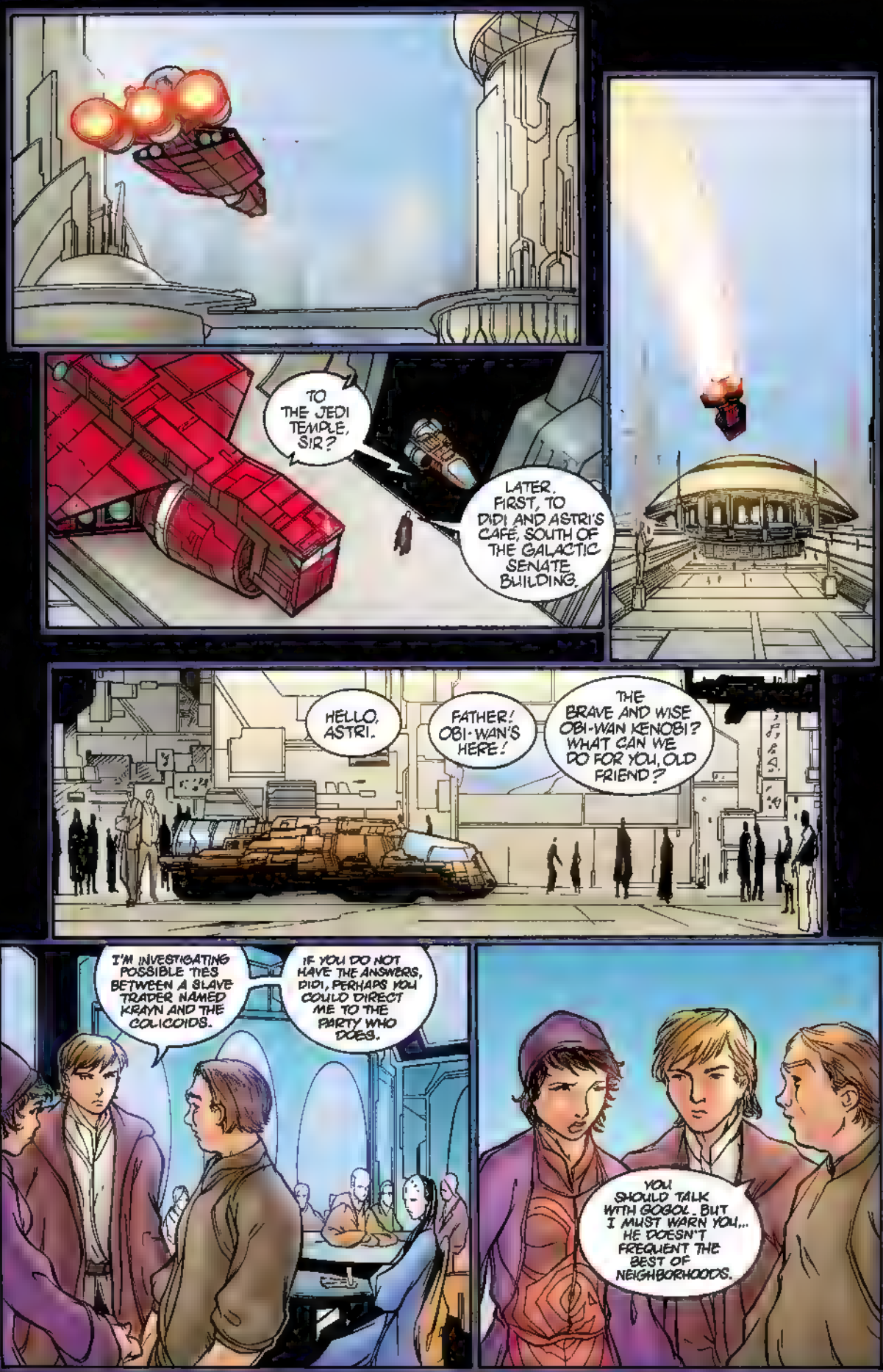
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE MEDDLERS WHO DISABLED OUR WEAPONS, WE WOULD HAVE SEIZED THAT COLICOID SHIP...
...INSTEAD OF BEING FORCED TO RETREAT INTO HYPERSPACE. GRANTED, WE'LL REACH NAR SHADDAA SOONER RATHER THAN LATER, BUT RETREATING IS SO UNDIGNIFIED.
STOW THIS YOUNGSTER WITH THE REST OF OUR CARGO, ZORA. THEN MEET US ON THE BRIDGE.
COME, SLAVE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL KRAYN THAT I'M A JEDI APPRENTICE, SIR!?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE HEARD, KID, BUT THE NAME'S ZORA. IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU WON'T SAY "JEDI" AROUND ME AGAIN.
AND DON'T EVEN THINK OF ESCAPING. TRUST ME, YOU'D NEVER MAKE IT.


WHY DID YOU LET OBI-WAN GET AWAY? YOU KNOW HE'LL COME AFTER ME!
I WASN'T PREPARED FOR OBI-WAN. YOU, I CAN HANDLE.
IF HE COMES, I'LL BE READY. BUT IF YOU DON'T KEEP QUIET...
"...I GUARANTEE HE'LL FIND YOU IN PIECES."
IT'S NO USE, JEDI! WE CAN'T TRACK KRAYN'S SHIP THROUGH HYPER-SPACE!
FORGIVE ME, CAPTAIN, BUT BY ADJUSTING YOUR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM...
...WE CAN SCAN THIS SECTOR'S EXIT VECTORS.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL SCAN FOR STRAY STARLIGHT! KRAYN WOULD NEVER JUMP TO A DESIGNATED HYPERSPACE ROUTE.
YOU'RE MORE FAMILIAR WITH HIS TACTICS THAN I REALIZED.
MY PADAWAN HELPED DISABLE KRAYN'S WEAPONS. DOES HE NOT DESERVE OUR HELP?
HUMPH! YOU KNOW WE'VE DONE ALL WE CAN! YOUR MISSION WAS TO PROTECT US ON OUR JOURNEY. WE MUST PROCEED.
IS THE HYPERDRIVE OPERATIONAL?
YES, CAPTAIN, HOWEVER...


IF OUR NAVICOMPUTER BROUGHT US HERE INSTEAD OF OUR DESTINATION, IT MAY BE RIGGED TO DELIVER US TO ANOTHER TRAP.
A COMPLETE DIAGNOSTIC WILL TAKE TIME. UNTIL THE NAVICOMPUTER IS REPAIRED, I CAN ONLY GUARANTEE THE COORDINATES FOR OUR POINT OF DEPARTURE.
THE JEDI COUNCIL SHOULD BE INFORMED OF KRAYN'S ACTIONS. MAY I TRANSMIT A MESSAGE BEFORE WE RETURN TO CORUSCANT?
IF WE RETURN TO CORUSCANT, IT WILL BE MY DECISION!
OF COURSE. AFTER ALL, IF WE WAIT LONG ENOUGH, I MIGHT NOT HAVE TO SEARCH FOR KRAYN. HE MAY COME BACK FOR US.
AND IF WE SURVIVE, I'M SURE I'LL FIND SOME WAY TO EXPLAIN YOUR ACTIONS TO THE SENATE.

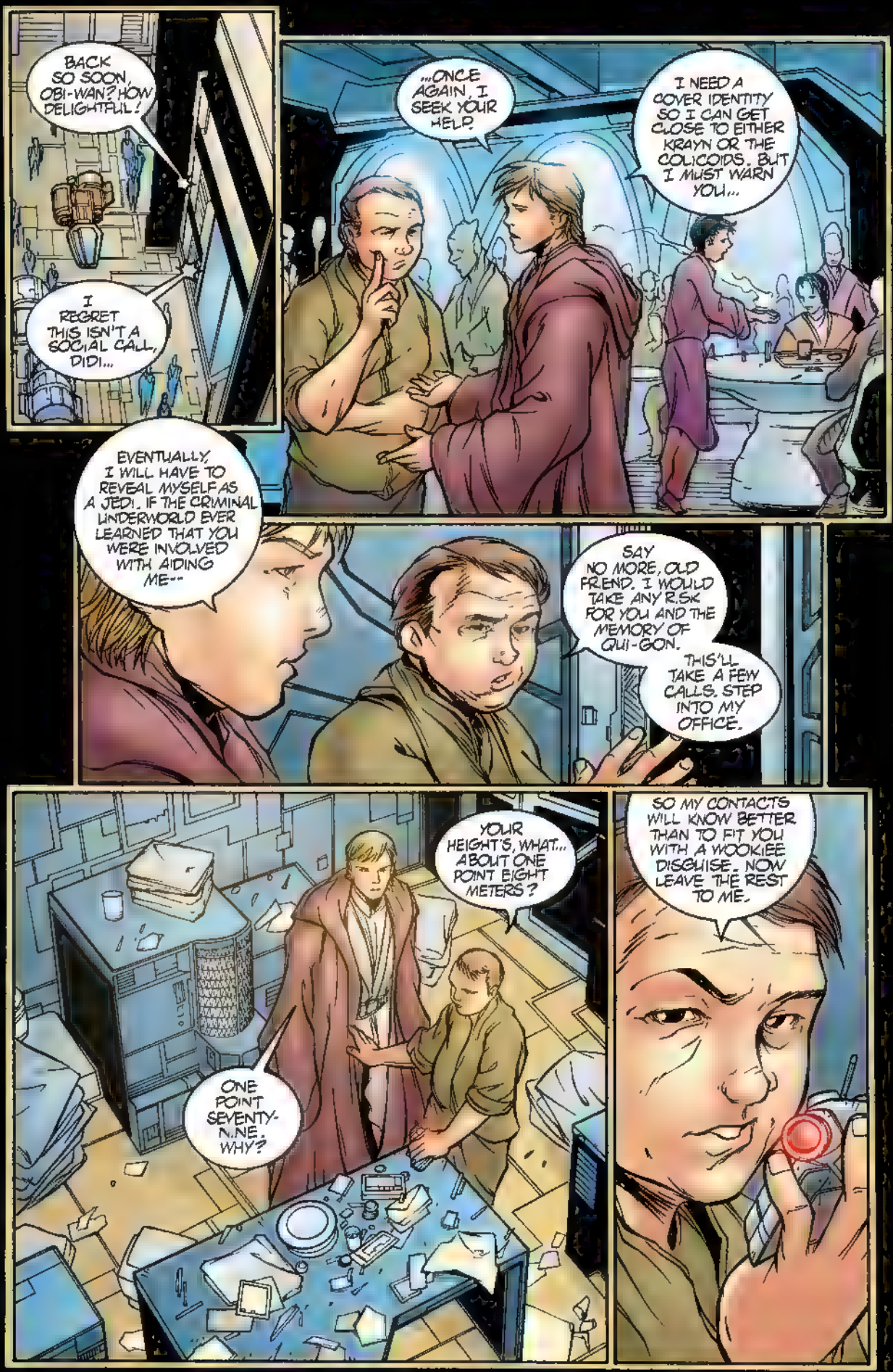

OPEN THE VENTS, BOSUN. I WANT TO SMELL THE SWEET REEK OF NAR SHADDAA BEFORE WE DOCK.
AYE, CAPTAIN.
ALSO CONTACT AGA CULPA. TELL HIM TO MEET ME AT THE DOCKING PLATFORM.
WHAT IF "HIS HIGHNESS" IS BUSY?
IF CULPA'S BUSY, I'LL HAVE HIS ROYAL HEAD FOR LUNCH.


WELCOME BACK, CAPTAIN KRAYN.
Ah, AGA CULPA. HOW CONSIDERATE OF YOU TO TAKE TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO GREET US.
YES, WELL, YOUR TWO ASSISTANTS HERE WERE KIND ENOUGH TO TRACK ME DOWN AND REMIND ME OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
IS THERE SOME WAY MY OFFICE CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU?
YES.
BUSINESS HAS BEEN GOOD, AND I EXPECT IT TO GET BETTER. I REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FACILITIES.
I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU WOULD GRANT ME THE DEED TO THE THREE COMPLEXES EAST OF MY PROPERTY.
BUT THOSE COMPLEXES ARE RESIDENTIAL... HOMES TO OVER TWO THOUSAND CITIZENS!
I KNOW. AND I'M CONFIDENT YOU CAN RECTIFY THAT SITUATION... BY TOMORROW. GOOD DAY, AGA.
RASHTAH AND I ARE OFF TO A MEETING ON RORAK'S. ZORA, GET THIS CARGO WORKING BY THE NEXT SHIFT.
WITH PLEASURE.

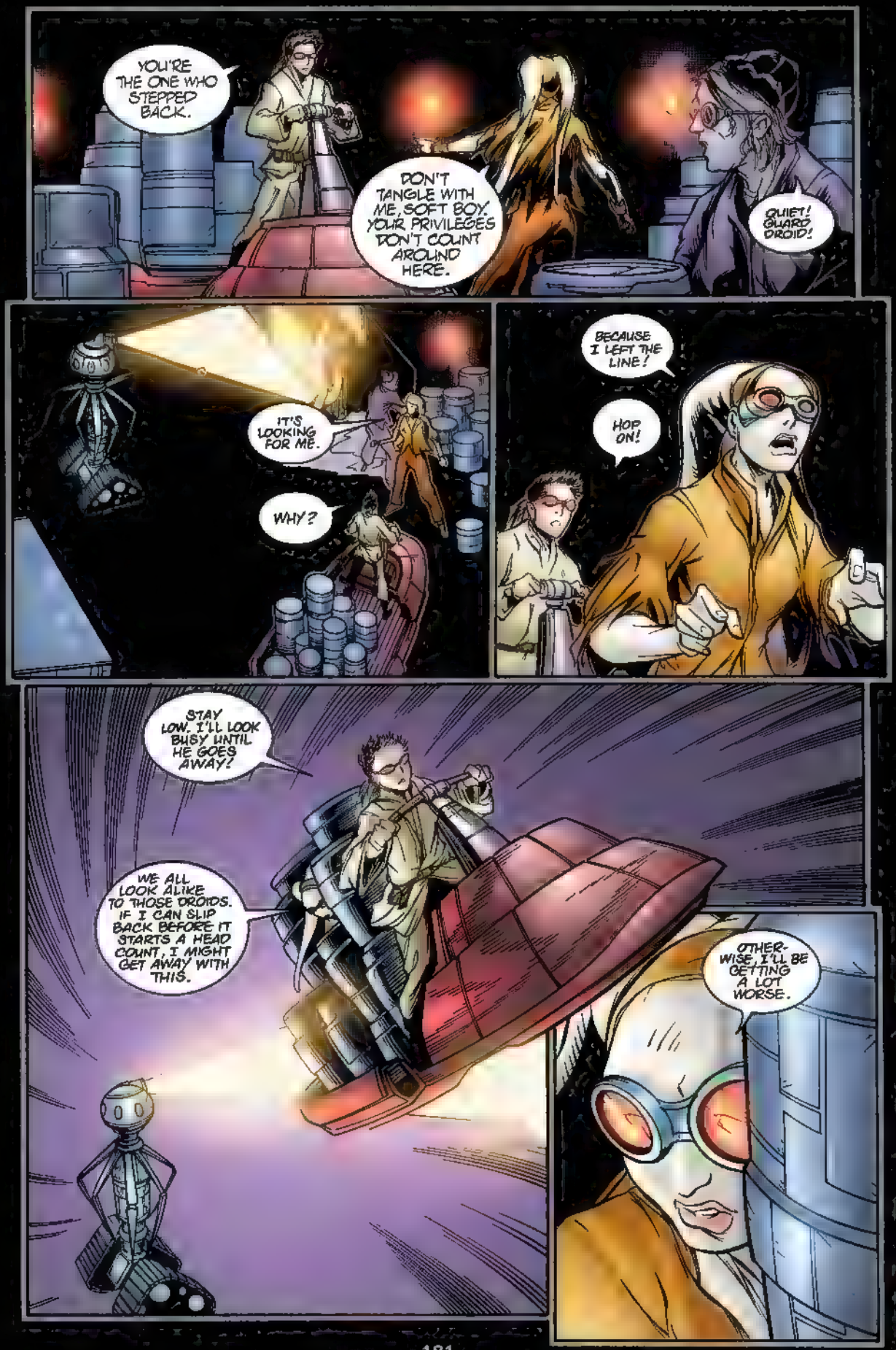

TO THE JEDI TEMPLE, SIR?
LATER. FIRST, TO DIDI AND ASTRI'S CAFÉ, SOUTH OF THE GALACTIC SENATE BUILDING.
HELLO, ASTRI.
FATHER! OBI-WAN'S HERE!
THE BRAVE AND WISE OBI-WAN KENOBI? WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU, OLD FRIEND?
I'M INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE TIES BETWEEN A SLAVE TRADER NAMED KRAYN AND THE COLICOIDS.
IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE ANSWERS, DIDI, PERHAPS YOU COULD DIRECT ME TO THE PARTY WHO DOES.
YOU SHOULD TALK WITH GOGOL. BUT I MUST WARN YOU... HE DOESN'T FREQUENT THE BEST OF NEIGHBORHOODS.

YOU'RE GOGOL?
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU WANT, CHUM?
INFORMATION ON KRAYN. DOES HE HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THE COLICOIDS?
THE TABLE LOOKS AWFULLY EMPTY.
WORD IS THAT THE COLICOIDS ARE TAKING OVER THE SPICE TRADE. THEY'VE SECRETLY TAKEN OVER THE KESSEL MINES.
NOW THEY NEED A BIG PROCESSING PLANET. IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT KRAYN CONTROLS THE FACTORIES ON NAR SHADDAA.
SO KRAYN PROMISES NOT TO ATTACK THE COLICOID SHIPS, AND THE COLICOIDS PROMISE TO BUY HIS SLAVES FOR THE SPICE MINES AND USE HIS FACTORIES. A GOOD DEAL, eh?
NAR SHADDAA IS IN THE NAL HUTTA SYSTEM. DON'T THE HUTTS CONTROL THE FACTORIES?
THEY HAVE A PUPPET RULER, AGA CULPA. HIS JOB IS TO KEEP THE HUTTS RICH, BUT HE DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH.
EVERYONE ON NAR SHADDAA ANSWERS TO KRAYN.

I HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE COLICOIDS MAY BE IN LEAGUE WITH KRAYN.
THEY WISH TO TAKE OVER THE SPICE TRADE, AND KRAYN AIMS TO BE THEIR SOLE SUPPLIER OF SLAVES, BOTH IN THE KESSEL SYSTEM AND AT NAR SHADDAA.
WE HAVE REASON TO INVESTIGATE WHAT IS HAPPENING ON NAR SHADDAA: TO EXPOSE THE COLICOIDS, BRING DOWN KRAYN...
...AND FIND ANAKIN.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT OF US, OBI-WAN?
A VERY FAST SHIP AND PERMISSION TO INFILTRATE KRAYN'S OPERATION. ALSO, SINCE SIRI DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO SHOOT ME OR ANAKIN WHEN SHE HAD THE CHANCE...
...I REQUEST THE TRUTH ABOUT HER MISSION.

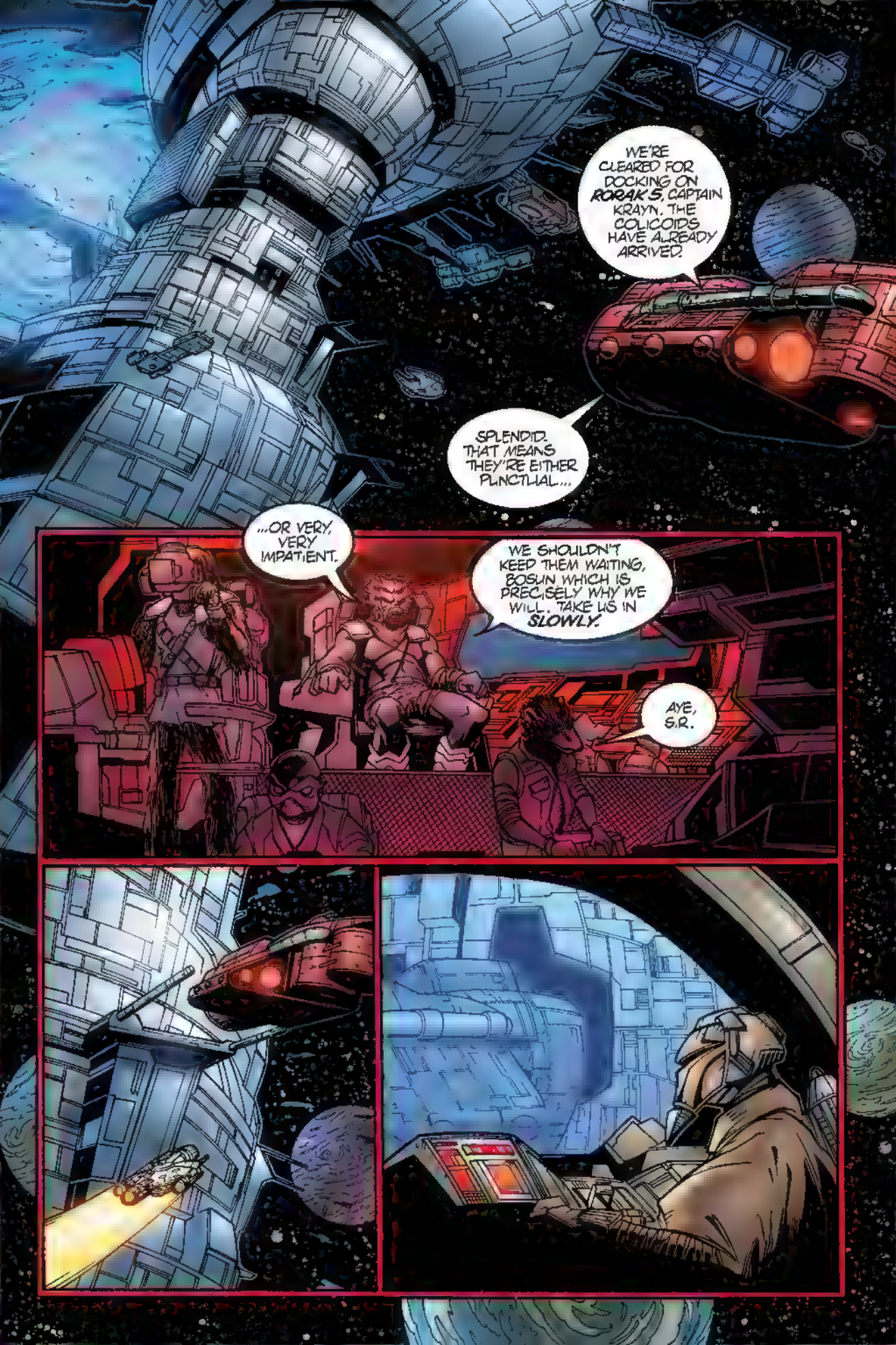

BACK SO SOON, OBI-WAN? HOW DELIGHTFUL!
I REGRET THIS ISN'T A SOCIAL CALL, DIDI...
...ONCE AGAIN, I SEEK YOUR HELP.
I NEED A COVER IDENTITY SO I CAN GET CLOSE TO EITHER KRAYN OR THE COLICOIDS. BUT I MUST WARN YOU...
EVENTUALLY, I WILL HAVE TO REVEAL MYSELF AS A JEDI. IF THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD EVER LEARNED THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH AIDING ME--
SAY NO MORE, OLD FRIEND. I WOULD TAKE ANY RISK FOR YOU AND THE MEMORY OF QUI-GON.
THIS'LL TAKE A FEW CALLS. STEP INTO MY OFFICE.
YOUR HEIGHT'S, WHAT... ABOUT ONE POINT EIGHT METERS?
ONE POINT SEVENTY-NINE. WHY?
SO MY CONTACTS WILL KNOW BETTER THAN TO FIT YOU WITH A WOOKIEE DISGUISE. NOW LEAVE THE REST TO ME.

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING SCHUTTA.


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STEPPED BACK.
DON'T TANGLE WITH ME, SOFT BOY. YOUR PRIVILEGES DON'T COUNT AROUND HERE.
QUIET! GUARD DROID!
IT'S LOOKING FOR ME.
WHY?
BECAUSE I LEFT THE LINE!
HOP ON!
STAY LOW. I'LL LOOK BUSY UNTIL HE GOES AWAY!
WE ALL LOOK ALIKE TO THOSE DROIDS. IF I CAN SLIP BACK BEFORE IT STARTS A HEAD COUNT, I MIGHT GET AWAY WITH THIS.
OTHER-WISE, I'LL BE GETTING A LOT WORSE.

1,2,3...
WE'RE TOO LATE! I'M DEAD.
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
...7,8,9...
T-TUN
...13--
T-TUN
...10,11,12...
KRASH

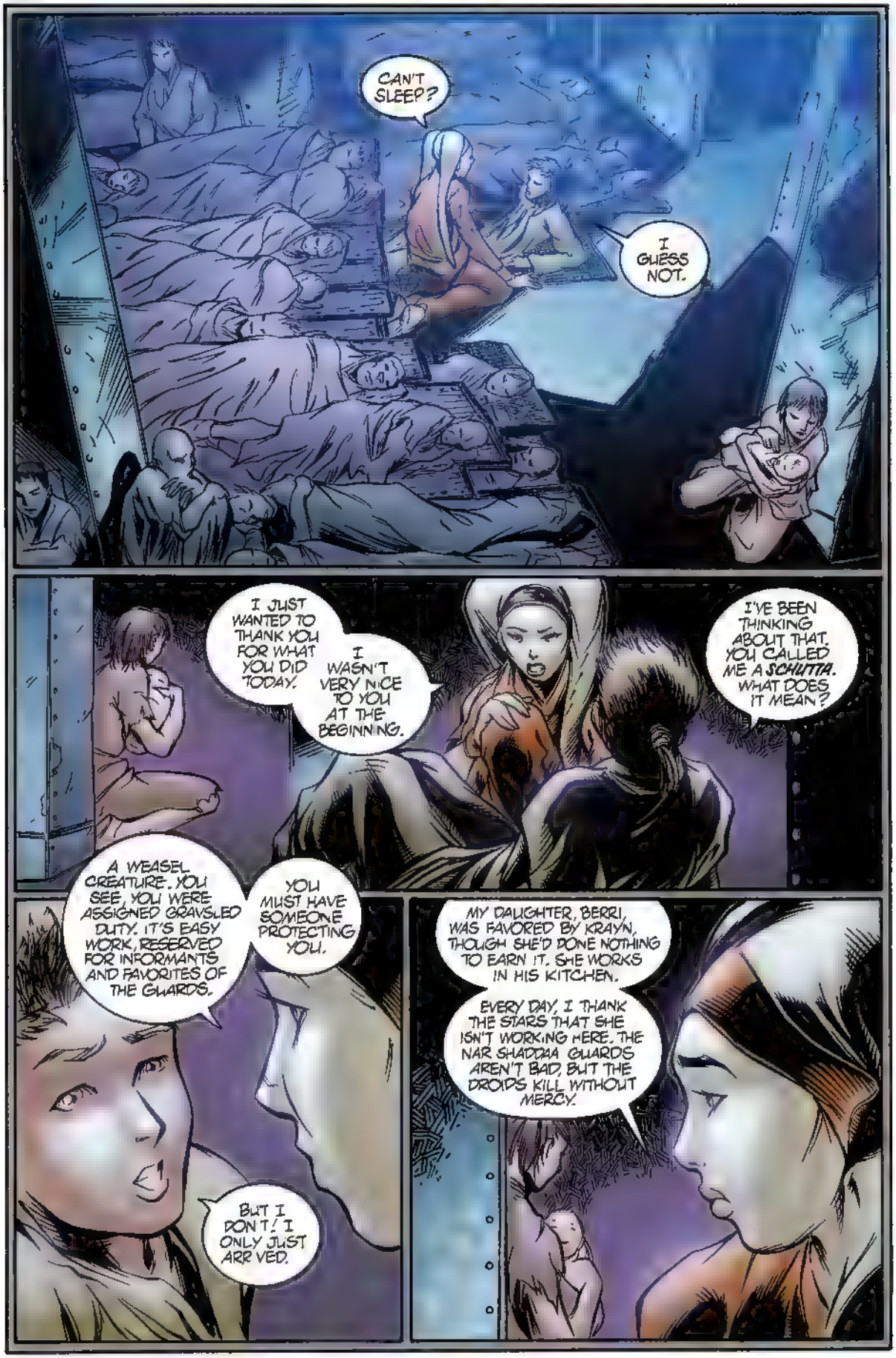
GO!
VIOLATION! VOLATION!
MY NAME IS MAZIE.
ANAKIN.


WE'RE CLEARED FOR DOCKING ON KORAK 5, CAPTAIN KRAYN. THE COLICOIDS HAVE ALREADY ARRIVED.
SPLENDID. THAT MEANS THEY'RE EITHER PUNCTUAL...
...OR VERY, VERY IMPATIENT.
WE SHOULDN'T KEEP THEM WAITING, BOSUN WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY WE WILL. TAKE US IN SLOWLY.
AYE, S.R.

FORGIVE MY TARDINESS. I WAS DELAYED BY AN ION STORM.
BEFORE WE DISCUSS BUSINESS, I WANTED TO--
BEFORE WE DISCUSS ANYTHING, HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT YOU ATTACKED ANF DEC'S SHIP WITHOUT WARNING?
PLEASE, NOR FIK. I WAS TRYING TO APOLOGIZE.
I WAS OFF THE BRIDGE WHEN MY AMBITIOUS CREW SIGHTED YOUR SHIP. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS A BRODOGON CONSORTIUM FREIGHTER.
REST ASSURED, THEY'VE BEEN DISCIPLINED.
WHEEE-AW.
AS SOON AS I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED, I ORDERED MY CREW TO CEASE FIRE, AND TRIED TO HAIL ANF DEC...
...BUT SOME UNKNOWN INTRUDERS SABOTAGED MY VESSEL'S COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, AND THEN SENT US INTO HYPERSPACE.
TRUST IS SO NECESSARY BETWEEN PARTNERS, NOR FIK. YOU HAVE MY TRUST, AND I WILL STRIVE TO REGAIN YOURS.

VERY WELL. ON TO BUSINESS.
ONCE WE HAVE THE ENTIRE SPICE TRADE FIRMLY IN OUR GRASP..
...YOU WILL HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT TO PROCESS THE SPICE IN YOUR FACTORIES ON NAR SHADDAA.
HOWEVER, WE ARE AWARE THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN CRACKING DOWN ON THE SLAVE TRADE, SO IT IS HARDER FOR YOU TO CONDUCT MASSIVE RAIDS.
IF YOU DON'T KEEP YOUR SLAVES HEALTHY, YOU'LL HAVE TROUBLE REPLACING THEM.
HEALTHY SLAVES DREAM OF ESCAPE.
MY SUPERIORS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTIVITY. TO GRANT THE CONTRACT WE REQUIRE A COMPLETE INSPECTION OF YOUR FACILITIES.
AS WE ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO JUDGE THE WORK ABILITY OF YOUR SLAVES, WE HAVE RETAINED AN INDEPENDENT OBSERVER.

THIS IS BAKLEEDA. HE IS IN YOUR PARTICULAR BUSINESS, AND IS WILLING TO ACT AS OUR CONSULTANT.
HE WILL TRAVEL TO NAR SHADDAA, AND YOU WILL GIVE HIM FREE AND OPEN ACCESS.
TH S IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. AGREED?
AGREED.


CAN'T SLEEP?
I GUESS NOT.
I JUST WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TODAY.
I WASN'T VERY NICE TO YOU AT THE BEGINNING.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT. YOU CALLED ME A SCHUTTA. WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
A WEASEL CREATURE. YOU SEE, YOU WERE ASSIGNED GRAVSLED DUTY. IT'S EASY WORK, RESERVED FOR INFORMANTS AND FAVORITES OF THE GUARDS.
YOU MUST HAVE SOMEONE PROTECTING YOU.
BUT I DON'T. I ONLY JUST ARRIVED.
MY DAUGHTER, BERRI, WAS FAVORED BY KRAYN, THOUGH SHE'D DONE NOTHING TO EARN IT. SHE WORKS IN HIS KITCHEN.
EVERY DAY, I THANK THE STARS THAT SHE ISN'T WORKING HERE. THE NAR SHADDAA GUARDS AREN'T BAD, BUT THE DROIDS KILL WITHOUT MERCY.

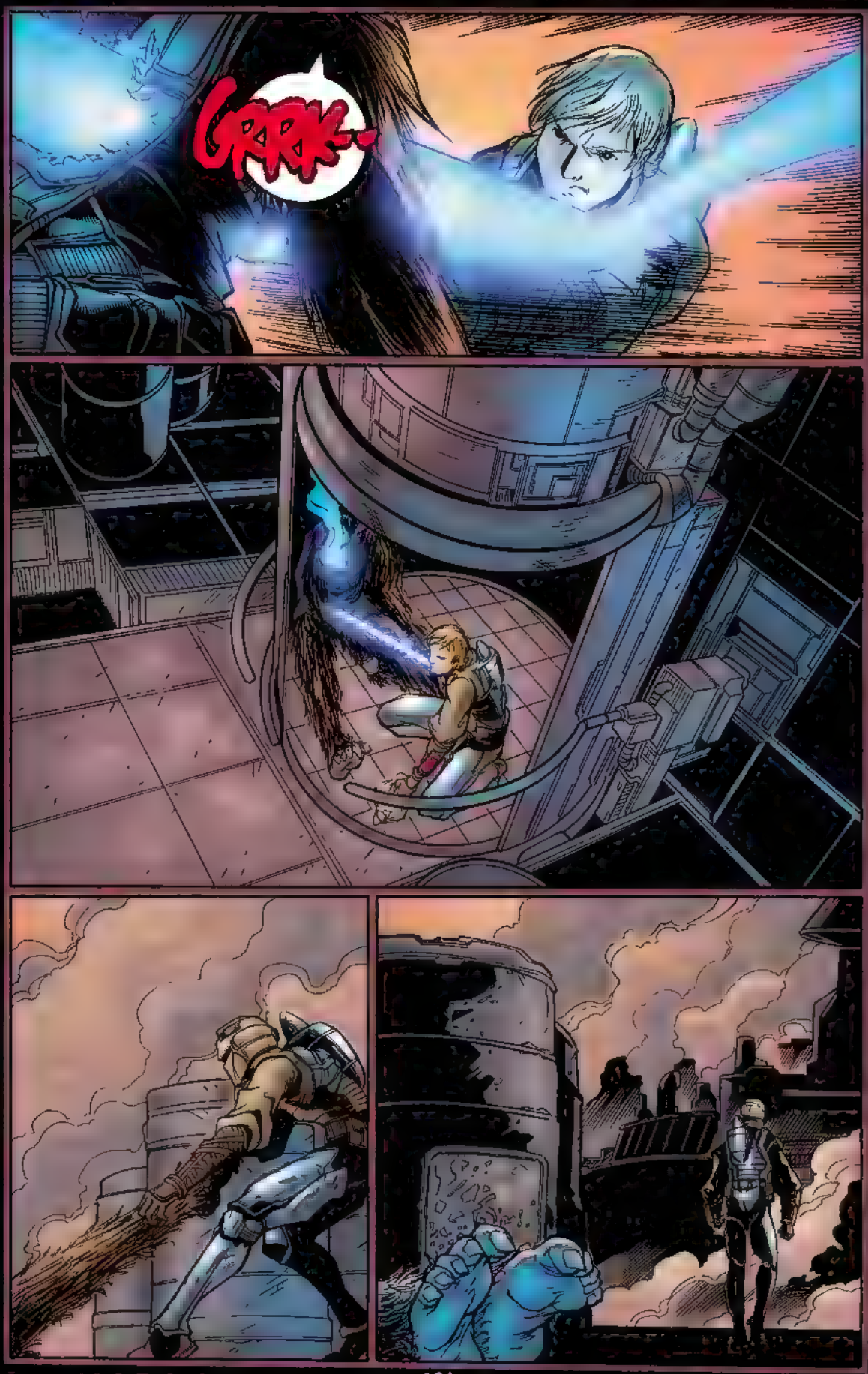
WHY DO THE PEOPLE OF NAR SHADDAA WORK AS GUARDS?
THEIR RULER, AGA CULPA, HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH KRAYN.
KRAYN CONTROLS THE FACTORIES, AND THE CITIZENS REMAIN FREE.
GRANTED, "FREE" IS RELATIVE. THIS ENTIRE MOON IS OWNED BY THE HUTTS, SO THERE'S NOT MUCH HONEST WORK. THE GUARDS ARE WELL PAID.
SO TELL ME, HOW DO YOU COME TO BE HERE? IS THIS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A SLAVE?
I WAS FREE WHEN I WAS CAPTURED, BUT I WAS RAISED AS A SLAVE ON A PLANET NAMED TATOOINE.
TATOOINE? THAT'S WHERE BERRI AND I LIVED! WE WERE COLONISTS. WE HAD A MOISTURE FARM.
WHEN WERE YOU CAPTURED?
TEN YEARS AGO. BERRI WAS ONLY SIX. MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED IN THE RAID.

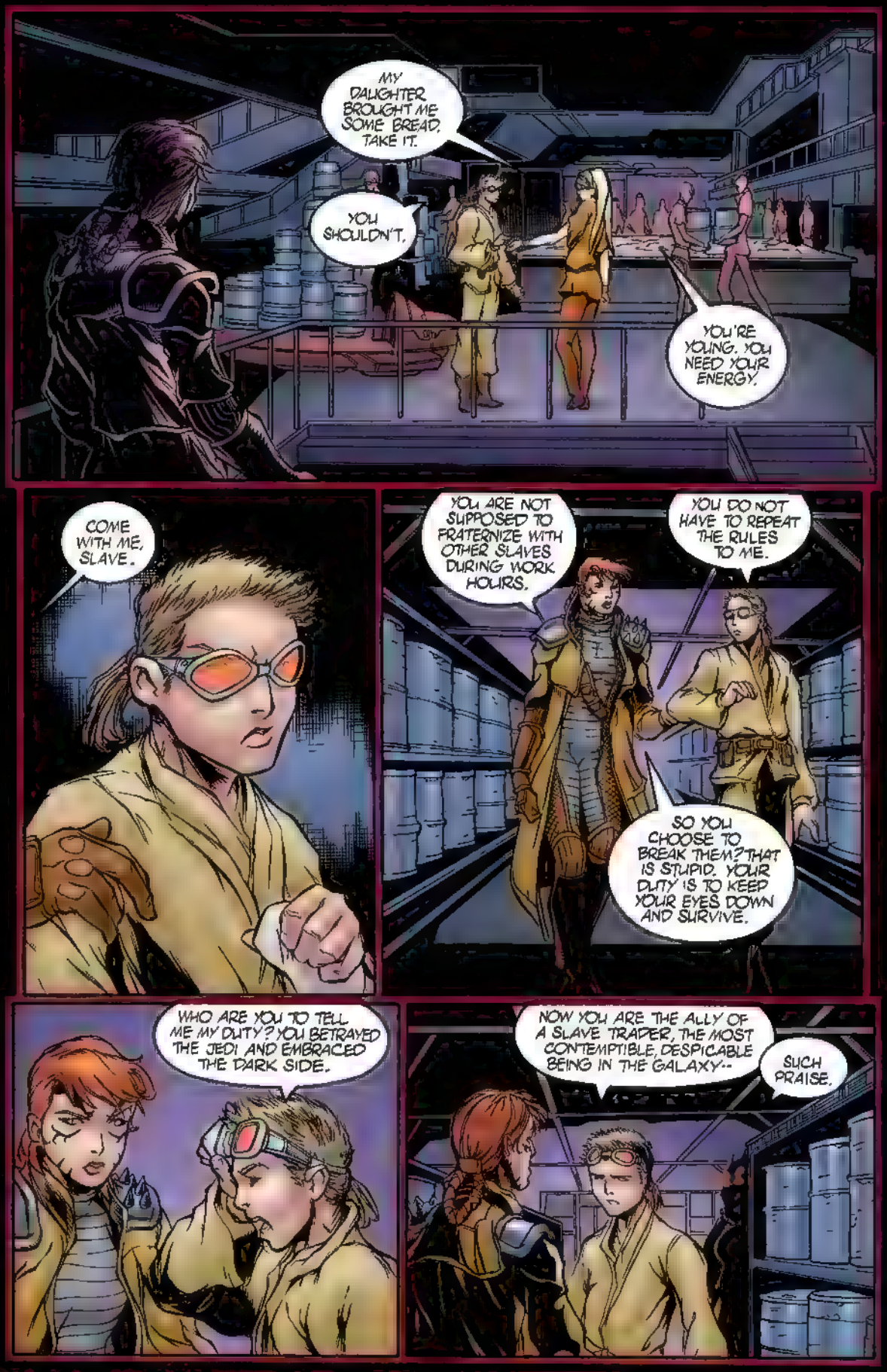
DO YOU KNOW A WOMAN NAMED HALA?
YES. WE ARRIVED HERE TOGETHER.
WHEN SHE SAW KRAYN, SHE BROKE OUT OF LINE. SHE TRIED TO KILL HIM, BUT HE STRUCK HER DOWN, AND THEN...
...HE MADE AN EXAMPLE OF HER.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THIS PLACE, ANAKIN, SO DO NOT IMAGINE THAT THERE COULD BE ONE FOR YOU. KRAYN HAS A DEATH GRIP ON US.
BUT DO NOT FEAR. A SLAVE'S LIFE IS SHORT. IT WILL SOON BE OVER.
NO.
I WILL FIND A WAY OUT.

COME, BAKLEEDA. ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU AROUND THE PLACE.
NO. THE COLICOIDS ARE PAYING FOR AN OBJECTIVE INSPECTION.
AS YOU WISH. BUT IF YOU NEED ANYTHING JUST SHOUT.
GRAAW!

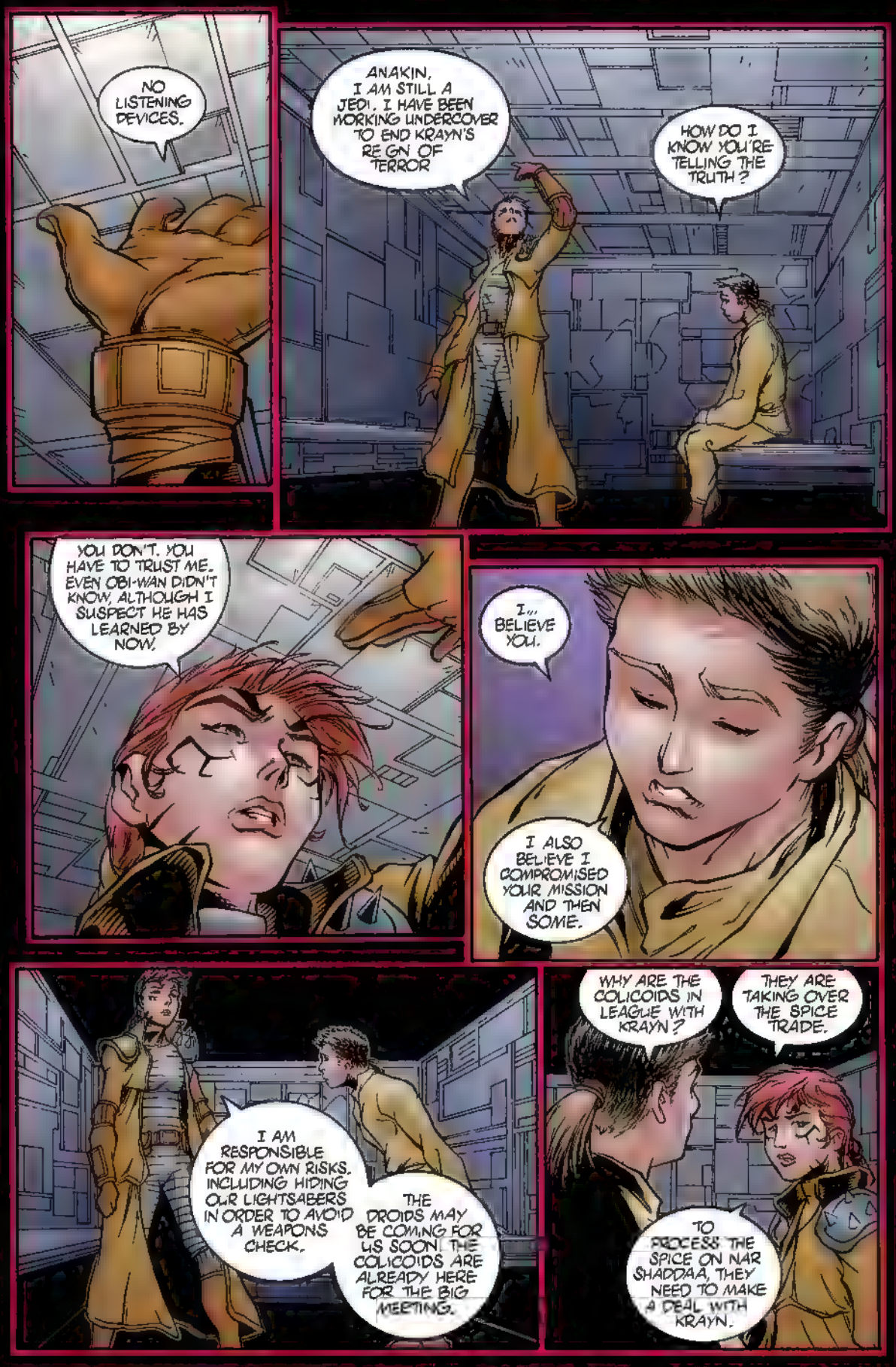
SMACK
GNROWL!

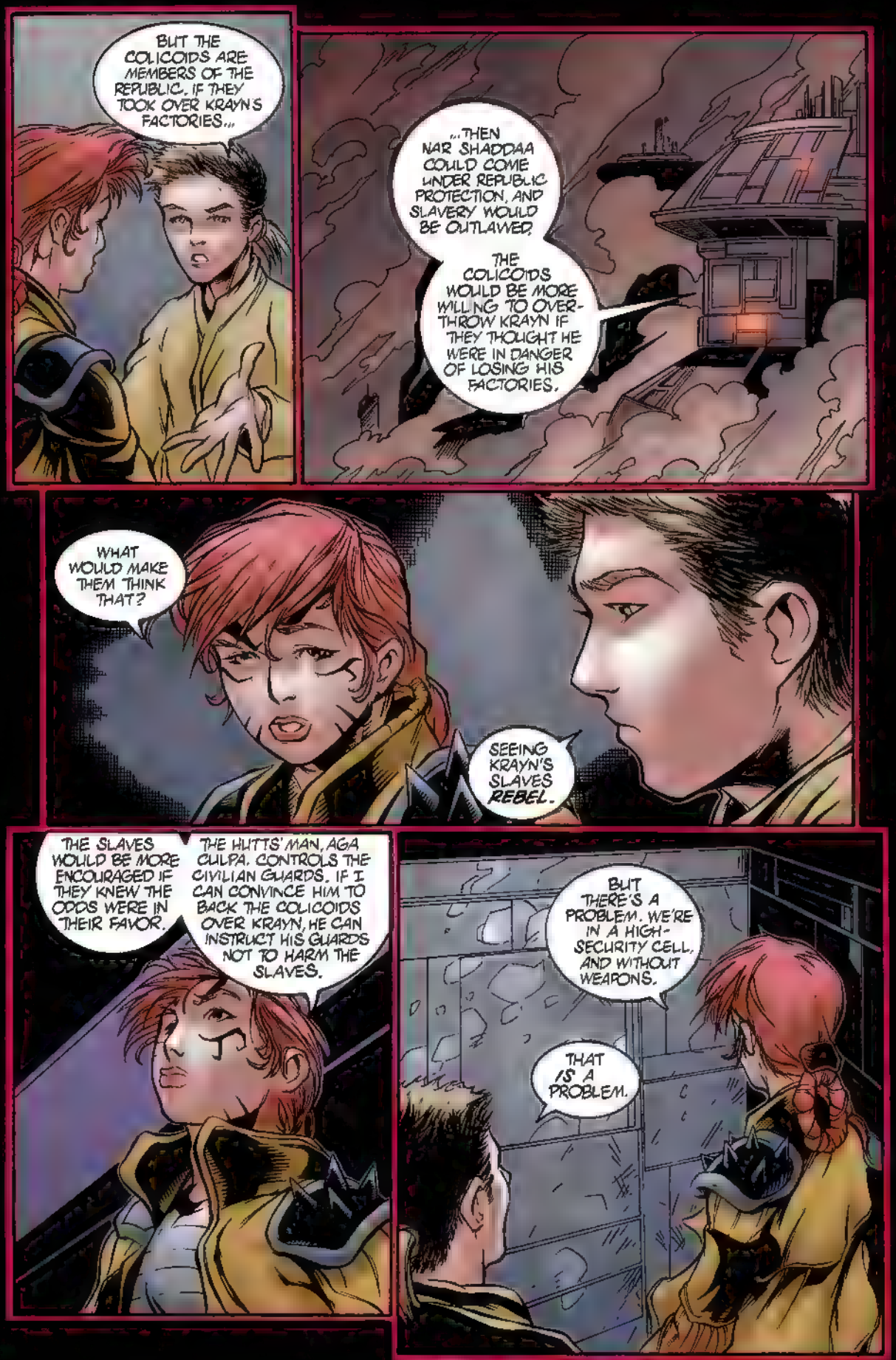
NRRRL
VANG
VMMM


GRARK--

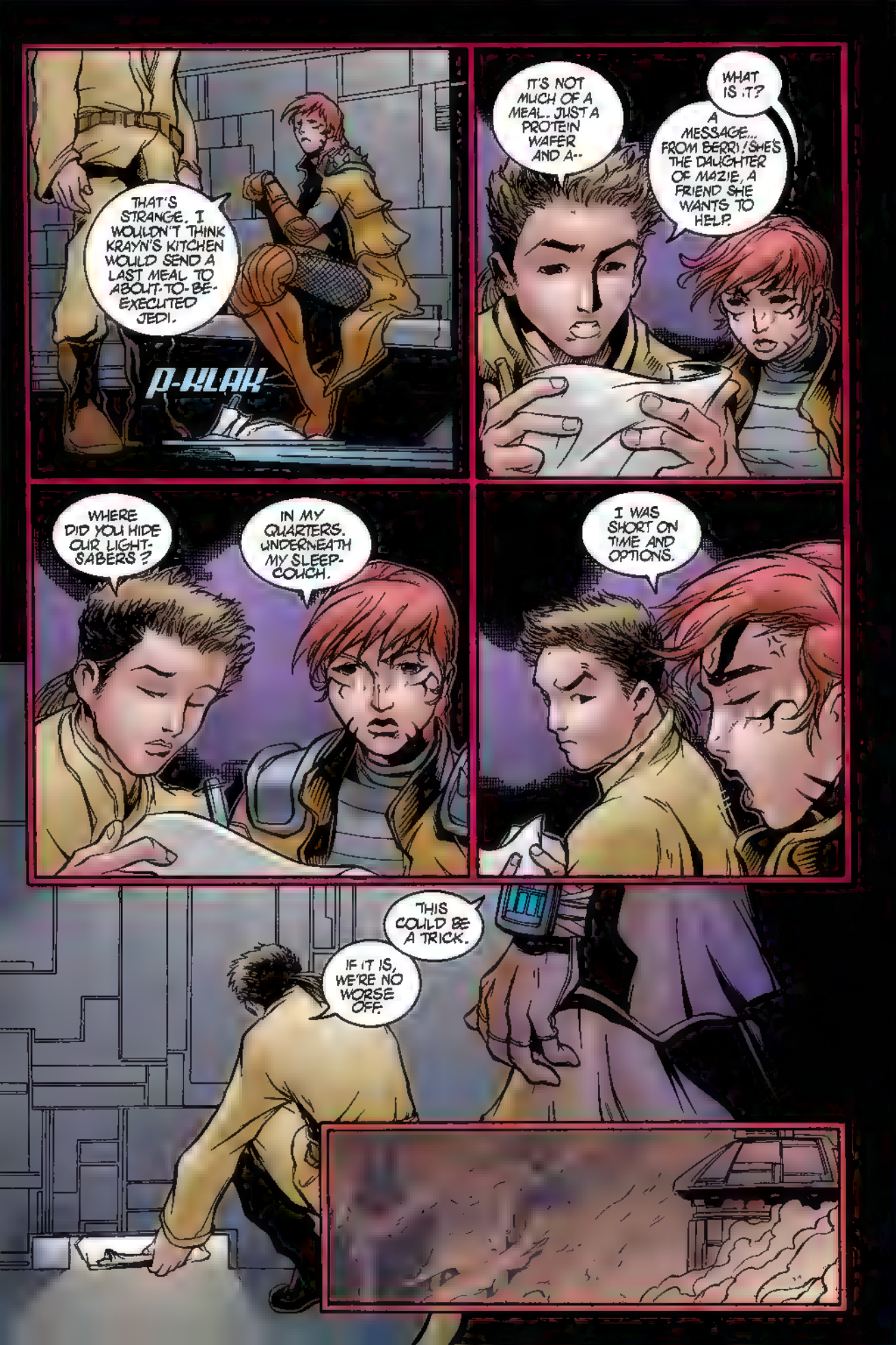

MY DAUGHTER BROUGHT ME SOME BREAD. TAKE IT.
YOU SHOULDN'T.
YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU NEED YOUR ENERGY.
COME WITH ME, SLAVE.
YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO FRATERNIZE WITH OTHER SLAVES DURING WORK HOURS.
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REPEAT THE RULES TO ME.
SO YOU CHOOSE TO BREAK THEM? THAT IS STUPID. YOUR DUTY IS TO KEEP YOUR EYES DOWN AND SURVIVE.
WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME MY DUTY? YOU BETRAYED THE JEDI AND EMBRACED THE DARK SIDE.
NOW YOU ARE THE ALLY OF A SLAVE TRADER, THE MOST CONTEMPTIBLE, DESPICABLE BEING IN THE GALAXY--
SUCH PRAISE.

HOW LUCKY I AM TO BE SUCH AN ICON OF EVIL TO MY PROPERTY. IT MEANS I AM DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.
I WAS JUST REPRIMANDING THIS NEW SLAVE. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE RULES.
SO YOU ARE A JEDI. WHAT DID HE CALL YOU? SIRI?
NO LONGER. I LEFT THEM LONG AGO, BUT THEY HAVE A RIDICULOUS CODE OF LOYALTY.
THEY THINK THEY OWN ME. NO ONE OWNS ME.
I DO.
I'M SURE THE COLICOIDS WILL ENJOY CELEBRATING OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH A LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT.
TAKE THEM TO THE DUNGEON TO AWAIT EXECUTION.

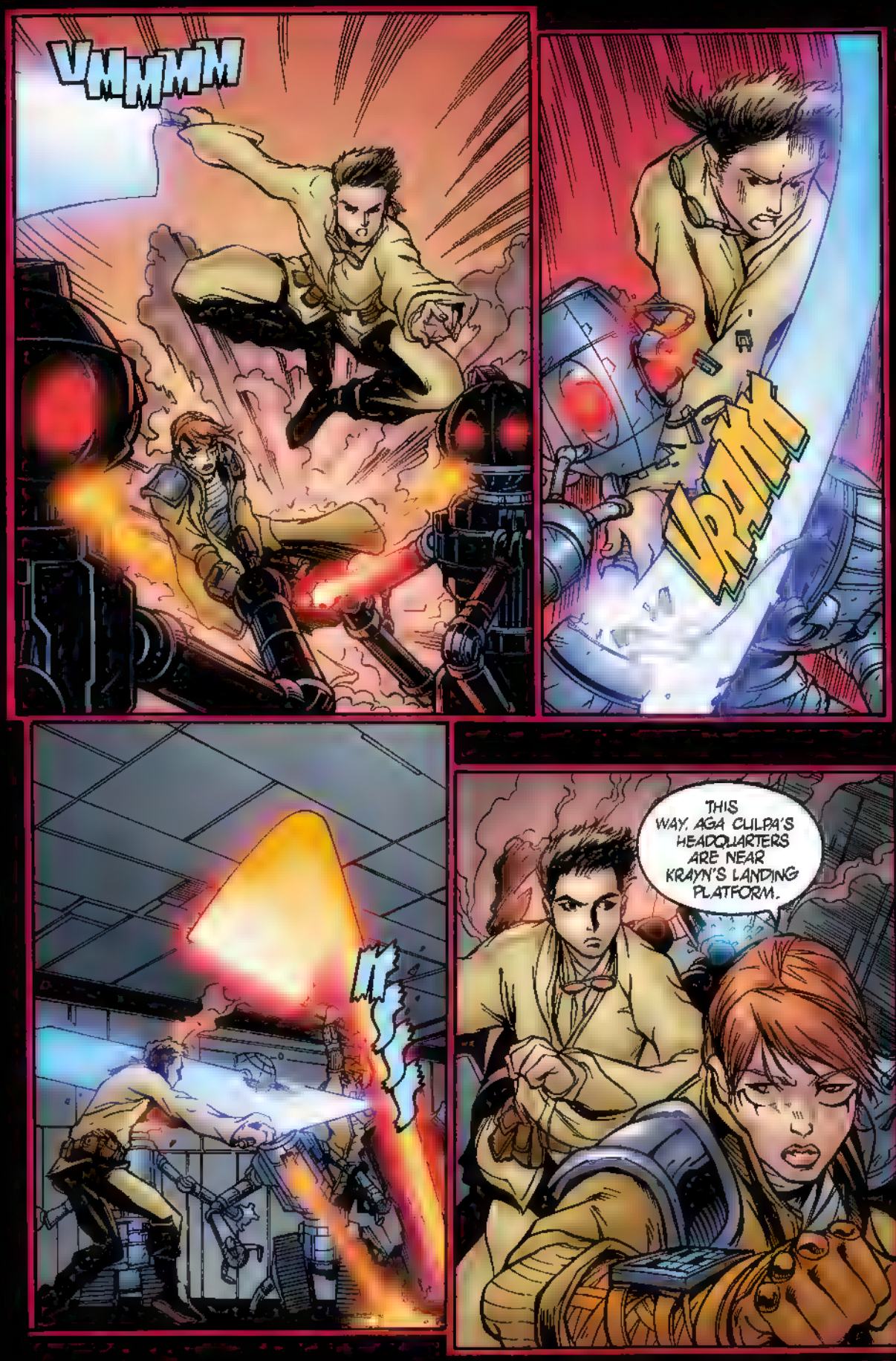

NO LISTENING DEVICES.
ANAKIN, I AM STILL A JEDI. I HAVE BEEN WORKING UNDERCOVER TO END KRAYN'S REIGN OF TERROR
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?
YOU DON'T. YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME. EVEN OBI-WAN DIDN'T KNOW, ALTHOUGH I SUSPECT HE HAS LEARNED BY NOW.
I... BELIEVE YOU.
I ALSO BELIEVE I COMPROMISED YOUR MISSION AND THEN SOME.
I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY OWN RISKS, INCLUDING HIDING OUR LIGHTSABERS IN ORDER TO AVOID A WEAPONS CHECK.
THE DROIDS MAY BE COMING FOR US SOON. THE COLICOIDS ARE ALREADY HERE FOR THE BIG MEETING.
WHY ARE THE COLICOIDS IN LEAGUE WITH KRAYN?
THEY ARE TAKING OVER THE SPICE TRADE.
TO PROCESS THE SPICE ON NAR SHADDAA, THEY NEED TO MAKE A DEAL WITH KRAYN.


BUT THE COLICOIDS ARE MEMBERS OF THE REPUBLIC. IF THEY TOOK OVER KRAYN'S FACTORIES...
...THEN NAR SHADDAA COULD COME UNDER REPUBLIC PROTECTION, AND SLAVERY WOULD BE OUTLAWED.
THE COLICOIDS WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO OVERTHROW KRAYN IF THEY THOUGHT HE WERE IN DANGER OF LOSING HIS FACTORIES.
WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM THINK THAT?
SEEING KRAYN'S SLAVES REBEL.
THE SLAVES WOULD BE MORE ENCOURAGED IF THEY KNEW THE ODDS WERE IN THEIR FAVOR.
THE HUTTS' MAN, AGA CULPA, CONTROLS THE CIVILIAN GUARDS. IF I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO BACK THE COLICOIDS OVER KRAYN, HE CAN INSTRUCT HIS GUARDS NOT TO HARM THE SLAVES.
BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM. WE'RE IN A HIGH-SECURITY CELL, AND WITHOUT WEAPONS.
THAT IS A PROBLEM.

SO, HAVE YOU SEEN ALL THAT YOU HAVE COME TO SEE?
NO. I REQUEST A GUIDE TO SHOW ME THE REST OF YOUR FACTORY... SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOUR OPERATION WELL.
HMMM. THAT WOULD BE RASHTAH. UNFORTUNATELY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS RIGHT NOW.
HE'S A LARGE WOOKIEE WITH A BAD TEMPER. PERHAPS YOU RAN INTO HIM?
NO.
THEN I WILL SEND SOMEONE ELSE TO YOU. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT WITH THE COLICOID DELEGATION?
AFTER ALL, I'D BE DEVASTATED IF YOU WERE TO ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLE DOWN AN AIR SHAFT OR SOMETHING.


THAT'S STRANGE. I WOULDN'T THINK KRAYN'S KITCHEN WOULD SEND A LAST MEAL TO ABOUT-TO-BE-EXECUTED JEDI.
P-KLAK
IT'S NOT MUCH OF A MEAL. JUST A PROTEIN WAFER AND A--
WHAT IS IT?
A MESSAGE... FROM BERRI! SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF MAZIE, A FRIEND SHE WANTS TO HELP.
WHERE DID YOU HIDE OUR LIGHT-SABERS?
IN MY QUARTERS, UNDERNEATH MY SLEEP-COUCH.
I WAS SHORT ON TIME AND OPTIONS.
THIS COULD BE A TRICK.
IF IT IS, WE'RE NO WORSE OFF.

I WAS NEVER GOOD AT PATIENCE EXERCISES AT THE TEMPLE.
ME NEITHER.
P-KLAK
MY LIGHTSABER APPEARS INTACT.
MINE, TOO. GIVE BERRI A MINUTE TO GET OUT OF THE CELL CORRIDOR.
VMM
VMM
VMM
TANG
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR COMPLICATED STRATEGY.
LET'S JUST RUSH THEM.


VMMMM
VRAK
IT
THIS WAY, AGA CULPA'S HEADQUARTERS ARE NEAR KRAYN'S LANDING PLATFORM.

WHAT?! ZORA! HOW DARE YOU BURST INTO MY OFFICE?
I'VE COME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE FROM THE COLICOIDS, CULPA...
THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE OVER KRAYN'S FACTORIES. I'VE AGREED TO HELP THEM. NATURALLY, KRAYN DOESN'T HAVE A CLUE.
I ALWAYS LIKED YOU, CULPA, SO I'M GIVING YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN US.
BUT... KRAYN WOULD KILL ME!
ARE YOU SO SURE THAT YOU'RE SAFE FROM THE COLICOIDS?
CONTACT YOUR CIVILIAN GUARDS. TELL THEM THAT IF THERE IS A SLAVE REVOLT, THEIR ORDERS ARE TO DO NOTHING... OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
YES... I WILL CONTACT THEM... THEY SHOULD DO NOTHING... OR THEY WILL SUFFER.
IT IS DONE.
THANKS, CULPA. I APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.
GO TELL THE SLAVES. I'LL TALK WITH THE COLICOIDS.

I CAN'T DO IT, ANAKIN. I CAN'T ASK THE SLAVES TO RISK SO MUCH.
IT'S STILL TOO DANGEROUS.
THE NAR SHADDAA GUARDS WILL LOOK THE OTHER WAY. ALL WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS THE DROIDS.
I'LL CREATE A DIVERSION. I GOT THESE POWER-GENERATING UNITS FROM A STOREROOM.
THERE'S ENOUGH EXPLOSIVE ENERGY HERE TO TAKE OUT A LARGE BUILDING.
I DON'T KNOW.
UNLESS YOU DO SOMETHING, YOUR LIFE WILL END HERE. DO YOU WANT BERRI TO LIVE AS A SLAVE?
PERHAPS... PERHAPS THERE IS A CORE GROUP WHO WILL REVOLT?
OTHERS WILL SEE US SUCCEED AND WILL JOIN US.
I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT.

MY NAME IS ZORA. I COME TO YOU WITHOUT KRAYN'S KNOWLEDGE.
I AM NOR FIK. IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT IF YOU ALLOW KRAYN TO KEEP CONTROL OF THE SPICE FACTORIES, YOU WILL LOSE THEM...
...AND WE WILL LOSE THE ENORMOUS PROFITS.
AND WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO YOU?
BECAUSE I KNOW MORE ABOUT KRAYN'S OPERATION THAN HE DOES.
THE SLAVES ARE POISED TO REVOLT. HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH SECURITY TO HANDLE IT.
WHAT I'VE SEEN SUPPORTS WHAT SHE SAYS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BAKLEEDA?

WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO TAKE OVER THE ENTIRE OPERATION.
BUT YOU EXPECT TO SOMEDAY. YOU WON'T CUT KRAYN IN FOREVER.
THE SPICE FACTORIES CAN BE RUN MORE EFFICIENTLY WITH WORKERS THAN SLAVES. THE HELP YOU WOULD RECEIVE FROM THE REPUBLIC WOULD BE OF ENORMOUS BENEFIT.
YOU SPEAK ELOQUENTLY, ZORA, BUT AGAIN, I MUST--
KA-BOOM

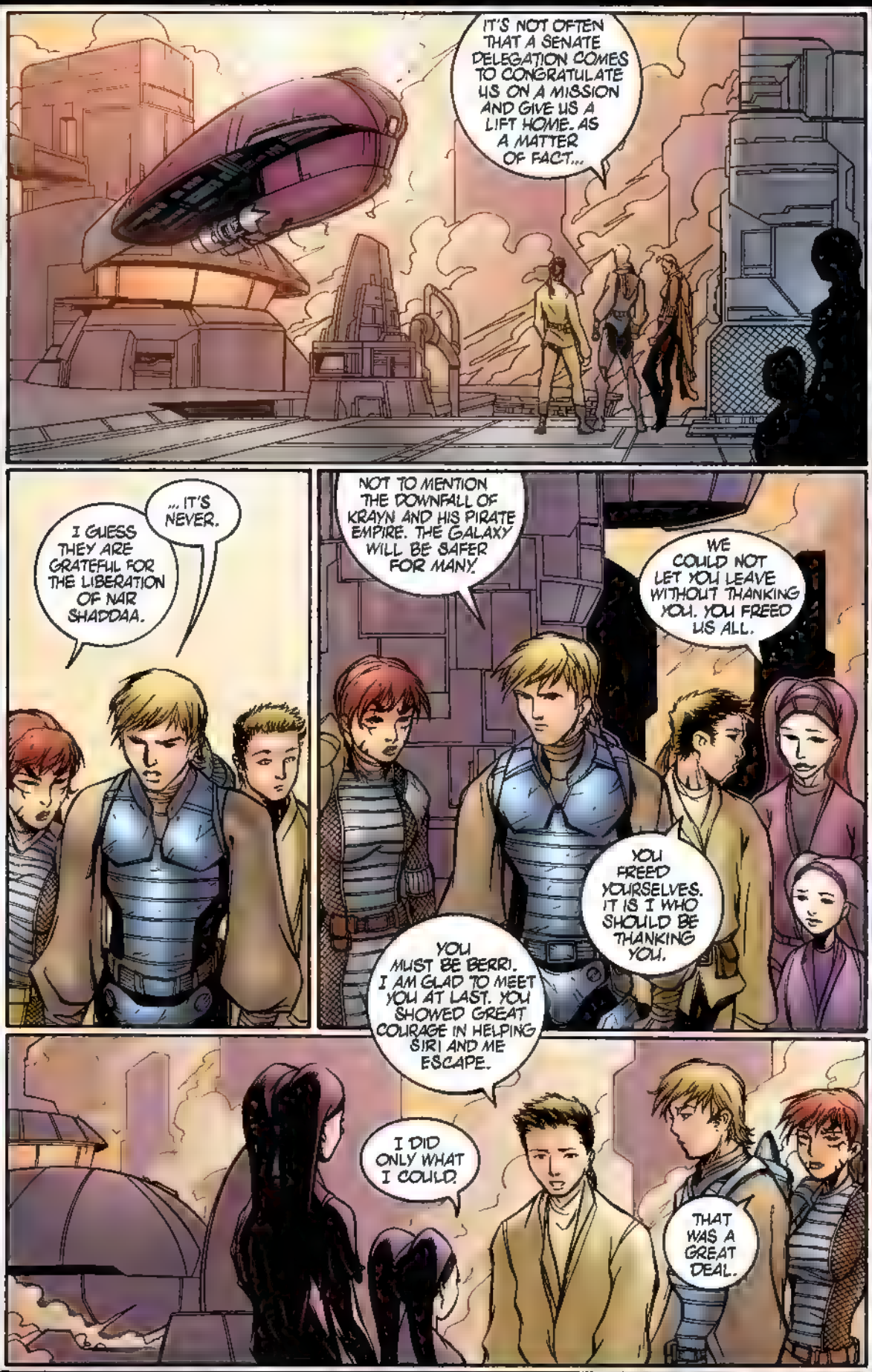
THE REBELLION HAS BEGUN. DO YOU BELIEVE ME NOW?
WHERE IS KRAYN?
IN HIS QUARTERS.
PERHAPS IT IS TIME HE WAS... DETAINED.
I CAN ARRANGE THAT. MAYBE YOUR TALL FRIEND HERE WOULD LIKE TO LEND A HAND.
ADMIT IT. I HAD YOU FOOLED.
NOT EVEN SLIGHTLY. YOU WERE NEVER GOOD AT DISGUISES.
BY THE WAY, THAT EXPLOSION WAS YOUR PADAWAN'S DOING.
DON'T TELL ME. HE'S LEADING THE REBELLION.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. BUT I HAVE A FEELING THAT IF WE DON'T CATCH UP WITH HIM FAST...
"...HE MIGHT ATTRACT MORE ATTENTION THAN HE CAN HANDLE."
I DON'T KNOW, CAPTAIN! AGA CULPA'S MEN AREN'T RESPONDING, AND THE GUARD DROIDS...ARE UNDER ATTACK!
WHO... ATTACKED...MY PROPERTY?
WHAT?

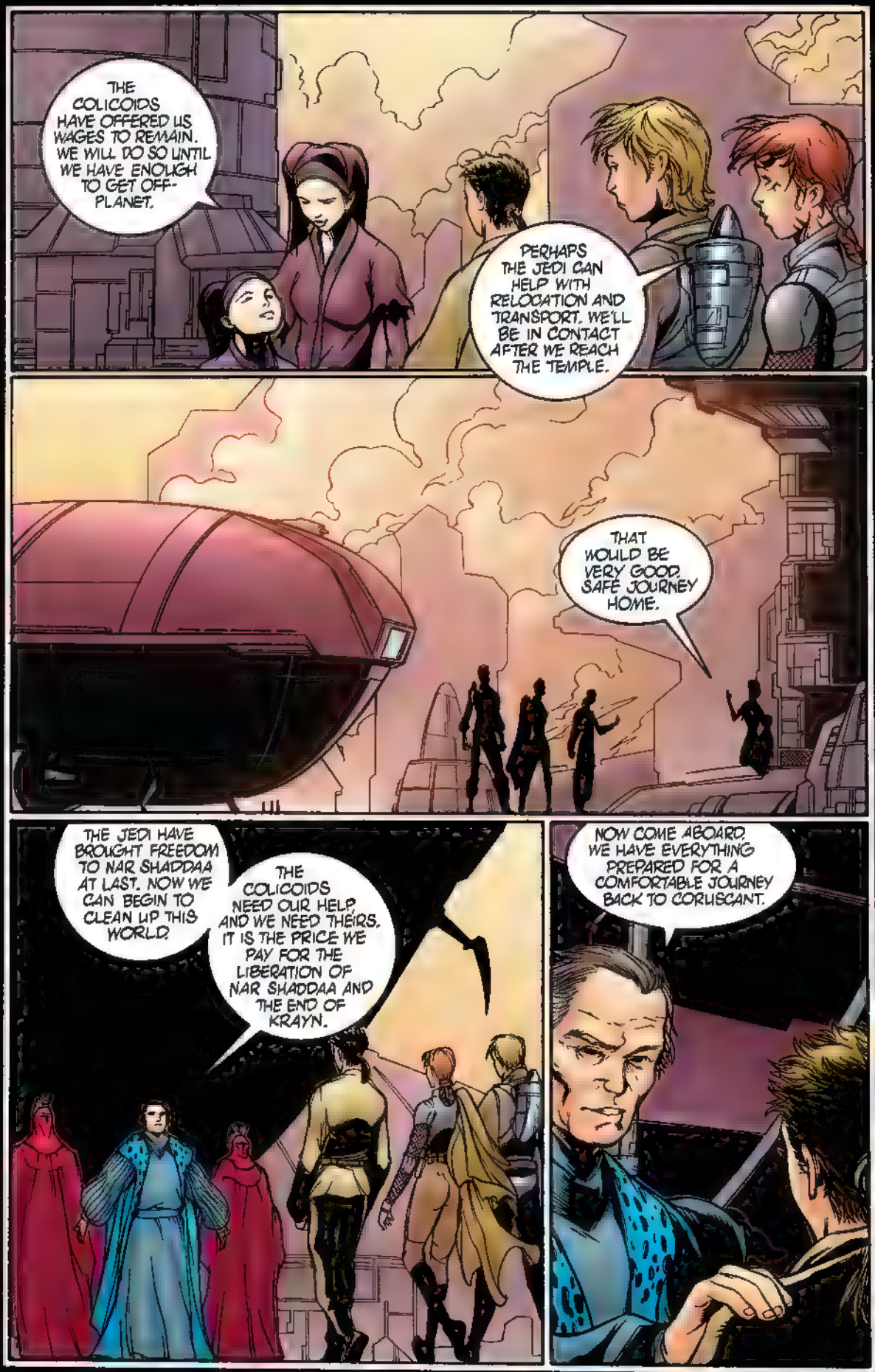
WE'RE DOING IT, MAZIE! WE'RE WINNING!
RETURN TO YOUR STATIONS! RETURN TO YOUR STATIONS!
IF I'D KNOWN YOU AND THE OTHER GUARDS WERE SO EAGER TO JOIN IN, CONDI, WE MIGHT HAVE DONE THIS YEARS AGO!
EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY! THE SLAVES HAVE DAMAGED ALL--
OLL!
THE DROIDS HAVE STOPPED TRANSMITTING!
THEN GO GET CULPA NOW! TELL HIM I WANT--
AGA CULPA WON'T HELP YOU ANYMORE, KRAYN.
IT IS TIME YOU PAID FOR YOUR CRIMES.
NOT BY THE LIKES OF YOU, BOY.

YOU WILL DIE AT MY HANDS, KRAYN.
VMM
VANG
VANG
YOU WILL DIE AT THE HANDS OF A BOY.
ANAKIN!

UGH

YOU CAN DEACTIVATE YOUR WEAPON NOW, PADAWAN.
VZZT


IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT A SENATE DELEGATION COMES TO CONGRATULATE US ON A MISSION AND GIVE US A LIFT HOME. AS A MATTER OF FACT...
I GUESS THEY ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE LIBERATION OF NAR SHADDAA.
...IT'S NEVER.
NOT TO MENTION THE DOWNFALL OF KRAYN AND HIS PIRATE EMPIRE. THE GALAXY WILL BE SAFER FOR MANY.
WE COULD NOT LET YOU LEAVE WITHOUT THANKING YOU. YOU FREED US ALL.
YOU FREED YOURSELVES. IT IS I WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
YOU MUST BE BERRI. I AM GLAD TO MEET YOU AT LAST. YOU SHOWED GREAT COURAGE IN HELPING SIRI AND ME ESCAPE.
I DID ONLY WHAT I COULD.
THAT WAS A GREAT DEAL.


THE COLICOIDS HAVE OFFERED US WAGES TO REMAIN. WE WILL DO SO UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH TO GET OFF-PLANET.
PERHAPS THE JEDI CAN HELP WITH RELOCATION AND TRANSPORT. WE'LL BE IN CONTACT AFTER WE REACH THE TEMPLE.
THAT WOULD BE VERY GOOD. SAFE JOURNEY HOME.
THE JEDI HAVE BROUGHT FREEDOM TO NAR SHADDAA AT LAST. NOW WE CAN BEGIN TO CLEAN UP THIS WORLD.
THE COLICOIDS NEED OUR HELP, AND WE NEED THEIRS. IT IS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR THE LIBERATION OF NAR SHADDAA AND THE END OF KRAYN.
NOW COME ABOARD. WE HAVE EVERYTHING PREPARED FOR A COMFORTABLE JOURNEY BACK TO CORUSCANT.

IT APPEARS THAT YOUR PADAWAN HAS IMPRESSED THE CHANCELLOR. HE HAS GREAT GIFTS.
YES.
YET HE HAS SO MUCH TO LEARN.
THE END

Jango Fett | illustration courtesy of Lucasfilm

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

script by Ron Marz

art by Tom Fowler

letters by Dan Jackson

ZAP!
POW!
NOTHING STOPS THE MANDALORIAN WARRIOR!

TRADE FEDERATION DROIDS ARE NO MATCH FOR HIM!
POW!
TIME TO EAT, MASTER BOBA.
DO I HAVE TO, MU-12? I WANNA KEEP PLAYING.
NOTHING STOPS THE MANDALORIAN WARRIOR!
LUNCH DOES.
Ohhh...
...ALL RIGHT.
WHEN WILL MY FATHER BE HOME?
THE ANSWER IS THE SAME EVERY TIME YOU ASK, MASTER BOBA...
...YOUR FATHER WILL BE HOME WHEN HE IS DONE WORKING.

Ukk.

GLRG!
ZZZRK
STOP! HOW DID YOU GET--
GLRG!
ZZZRK

Hhk
I THINK I'LL BE NEEDING ANOTHER BOTTLE, GNARKH.
RUN TO THE CELLAR AND FETCH ME ONE.
IT'S THE ALDERAANIAN STOCK. LAST YEAR'S VINTAGE WAS PARTICULARLY GOOD.

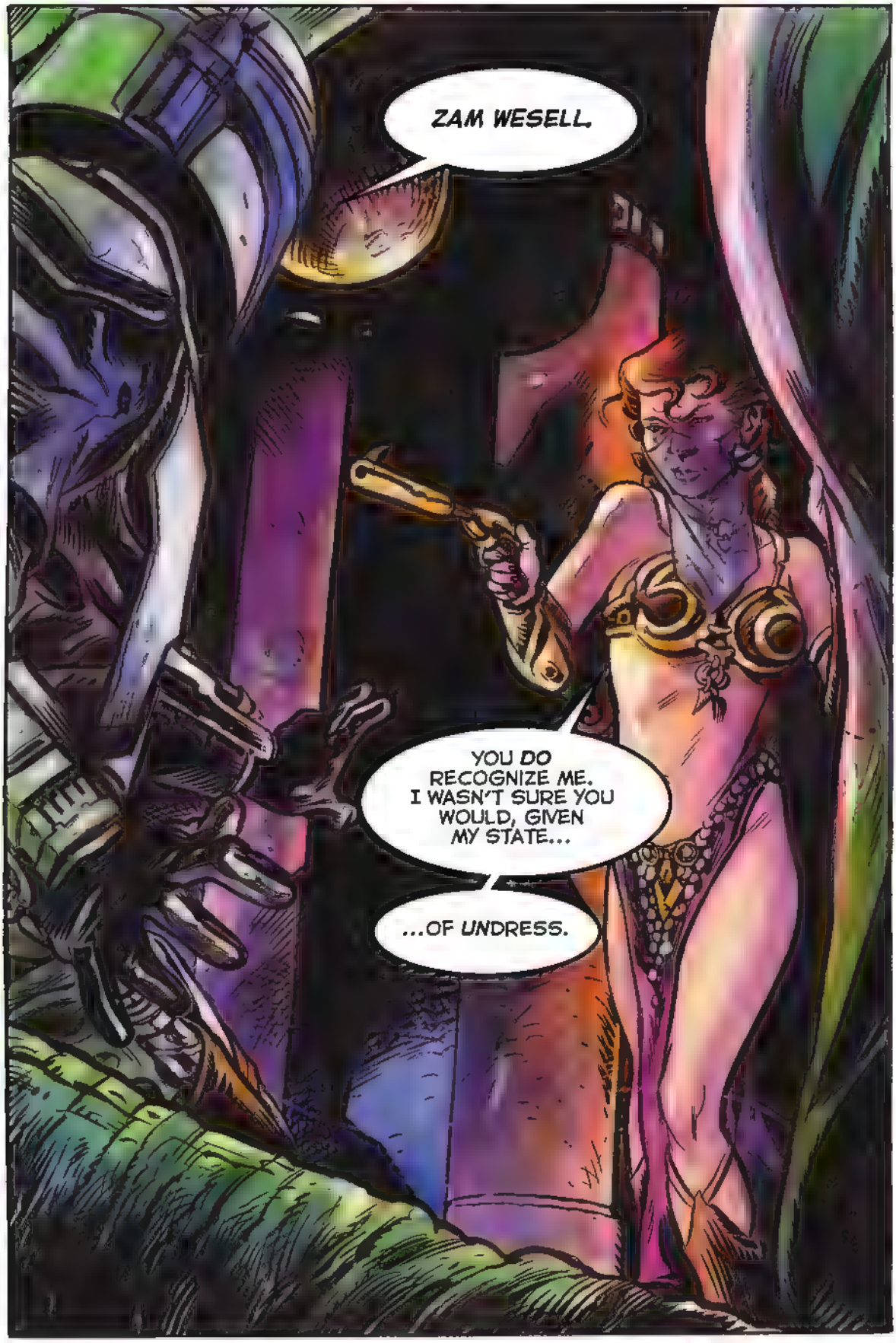
GNARKH? ARE YOU THERE?
DAMN IT, I DIDN'T DISMISS YOU.
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
NO...

...HE CAN'T.

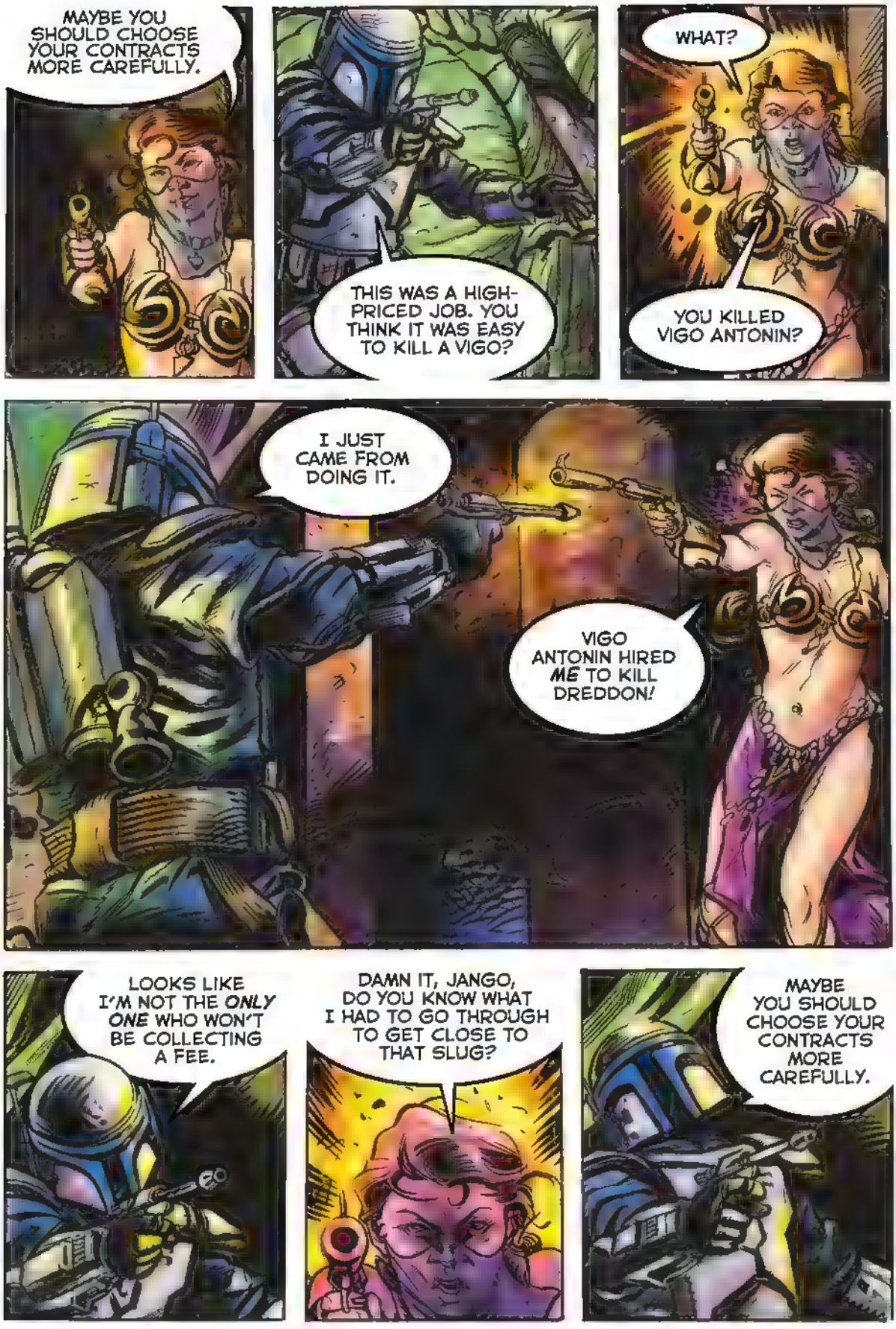
JANGO FETT.
IN A CURIOUS WAY, I'M HONORED.
DON'T BE.
HAVE YOU BEEN SENT TO DELIVER A MESSAGE?
KIDNAP ME, PERHAPS?
THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
AH.
I UNDERSTAND.
CAN I OFFER YOU A DRINK?
NO.
PITY. IT'S AN EXCELLENT VINTAGE.
I WONDER IF YOU'D MIND TELLING ME WHO HIRED YOU. I KNOW THAT'S NOT USUALLY DONE, BUT...
...WELL, I'M NOT LIKELY TO TELL ANYONE, AM I?
DREDDON THE HUTT.

HA!
OH, YES. DREDDON *WOULD* HAVE THE AUDACITY TO SEND A SINGLE BOUNTY HUNTER TO THE ESTATE OF A BLACK SUN VIGO.
WELL, THEN...
...HERE'S TO DREDDON, Hmm?
ZZZRK
SKRAK GE

DREDDON?
DREDDON? YOU AWAKE?
THE JOB'S DONE. I'M HERE TO COLLECT MY--
DREDDON'S NOT UP FOR CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW.
TURN AROUND, JANGO...


ZAM WESELL.
YOU DO RECOGNIZE ME. I WASN'T SURE YOU WOULD, GIVEN MY STATE...
...OF UNDRESS.

JANGO!
I'M INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH THAT FAST DRAW OF YOURS, JANGO.
IT'LL BE YOUR *LAST* DRAW IF YOU TRY ANYTHING SUDDEN AGAIN.
I ASSUME THIS IS YOUR HANDIWORK?
WASN'T THE TOUGHEST JOB I'VE EVER HAD.
GOT MYSELF INTO HIS HAREM TO GET NEAR HIM... CONVINCED HIM TO DISMISS THE REST OF THE STAFF FOR THE EVENING SO WE COULD BE ALONE.
HUTTS ARE SO EASY TO MANIPULATE.
I'LL BE PAID HANDSOMELY FOR THIS ONE.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE PAID HANDSOMELY BY DREDDON!
I COMPLETED A JOB HE HIRED ME FOR -- NOW HE OWES ME THE BALANCE OF THE CONTRACT.


MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR CONTRACTS MORE CAREFULLY.
THIS WAS A HIGH-PRICED JOB. YOU THINK IT WAS EASY TO KILL A VIGO?
WHAT?
YOU KILLED VIGO ANTONIN?
I JUST CAME FROM DOING IT.
VIGO ANTONIN HIRED *ME* TO KILL DREDDON!
LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT THE *ONLY ONE* WHO WON'T BE COLLECTING A FEE.
DAMN IT, JANGO, DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET CLOSE TO THAT SLUG?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR CONTRACTS MORE CAREFULLY.

I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD BOTH GO HOME NOW.
I SUPPOSE SO.
SO WE SHOULD LOWER OUR GUNS.
WE SHOULD.
YOU FIRST.
YOU KNOW, JANGO, THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH US.
NEITHER ONE OF US WANTS TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, JANGO...
...UNTIL NEXT TIME.

VRROOM!
ZOW!
ZOW!
THAT HAS TO BE ONE TERRIFIC PILOT TO GET OUT OF THAT JAM, BOBA.
DADDY!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HOME.
SO AM I.

WELCOME HOME, MASTER JANGO.
MASTER BOBA WAS A VERY GOOD BOY IN YOUR ABSENCE, SIR. HOW WAS YOUR ASSIGNMENT?
COULD'VE BEEN BETTER. THERE WAS A...PAYMENT PROBLEM.
AH. UNDERSTOOD, SIR.
IF I MAY, THERE MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP FOR LOST WAGES. A HOLO ARRIVED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY, SIR.
IT SEEMED URGENT AND RATHER... INTRIGUING.
BOBA, I HAVE TO TEND TO SOMETHING FOR A MINUTE, ALL RIGHT?
OKAY.
BUT WE CAN PLAY STARSHIPS WHEN YOU'RE DONE?
I'D LOVE TO PLAY STARSHIPS WHEN I'M DONE.

GREETINGS, JANGO FETT.
I AM FERNOODA.
YOUR REPUTATION AS THE GALAXY'S GREATEST BOUNTY HUNTER HAS BROUGHT YOU TO THE ATTENTION OF MY EMPLOYER, WHO WISHES TO HIRE YOUR SERVICES.
THE EXACT NATURE OF THE JOB WILL BE DISCUSSED ONLY IN PERSON, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THE FEE BEING OFFERED BY MY EMPLOYER IS SIZABLE.
I CAN BE CONTACTED AT THE *TWIRLING TWI'LEK* ON CORUSCANT.
I'LL AWAIT YOU THERE.
WILL YOU BE TAKING THE JOB, SIR?
I'D RATHER NOT...
...I'D RATHER STAY HERE ON *KAMINO* WITH BOBA.
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO LEAVE AGAIN SO SOON...

...BUT I DO HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR LOST PROFITS ON THE LAST JOB.
BOBA...
...WE NEED TO TALK.
YOU'RE GOING AWAY AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
YOU JUST GOT HOME BUT YOU'RE GOING AWAY AGAIN.
I...
...YES.
SOMETHING'S COME UP AND I NEED TO TEND TO IT. I'M SORRY, SON. I SHOULDN'T BE GONE LONG.
IT DOESN'T MEAN I LOVE YOU ANY LESS. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU?
I UNDERSTAND, BUT...
...DO YOU HAVE TO GO RIGHT NOW?
NO...
"...NOT RIGHT NOW."

I'D DO ALMOST ANYTHING FOR A PEEK UNDER THAT HELMET...

...ALMOST *ANYTHING.*

NOT TODAY...

I'M HERE ON BUSINESS.

YOU'RE WALKING AWAY FROM THE BEST TIME YOU'LL EVER HAVE ON CORUSCANT!

HEY!

I'M LOOKING FOR A DUG NAMED FERNOODA.

I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY OR ANYTHING.

BEAT IT... UH...

S-SORRY, J-JANGO -- I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU!

HE'S IN THE BACK. P-PLEASE, NO TROUBLE. ALL RIGHT?

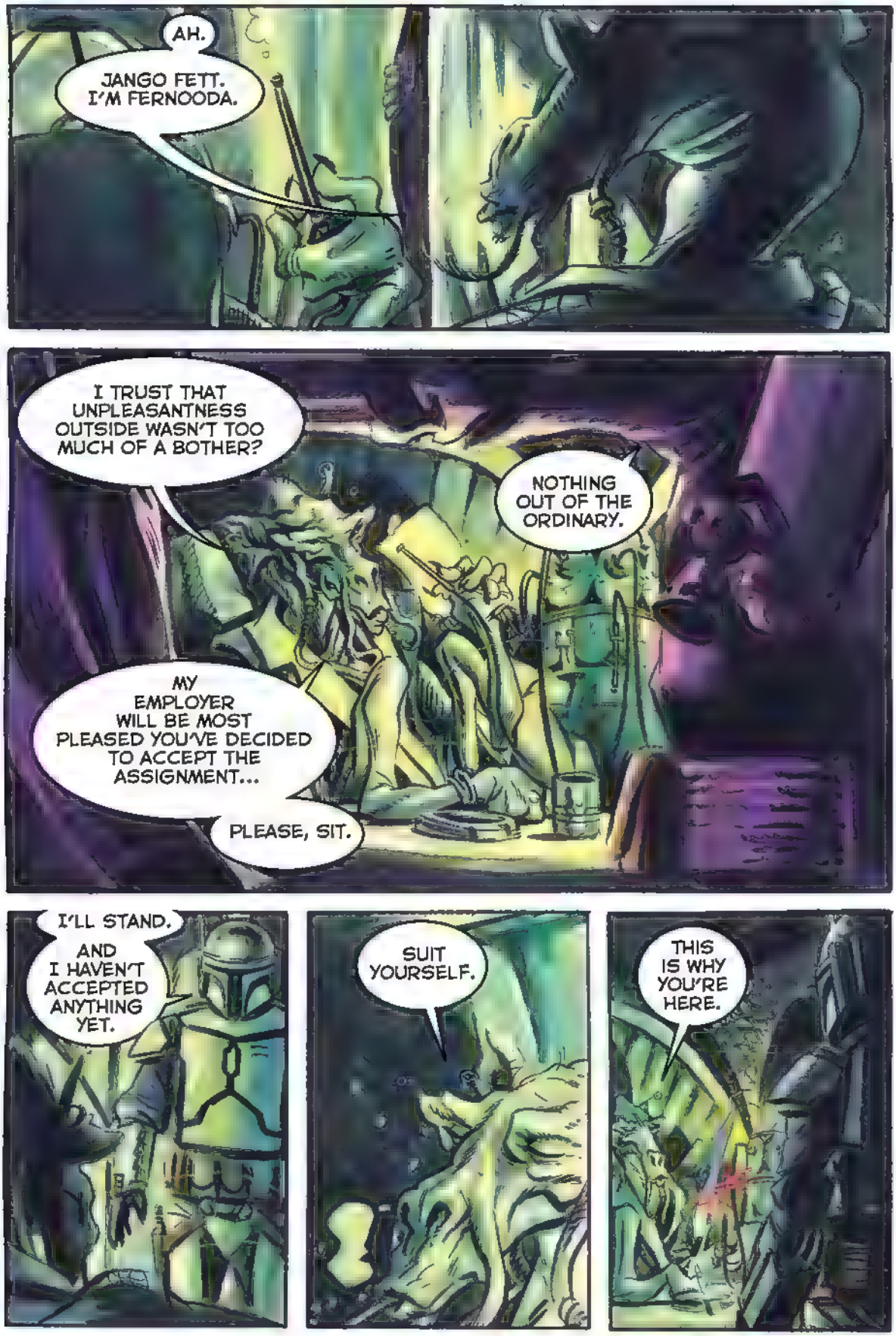
WE'LL SEE.

I KNOW YOU...

...YOU JANGO FETT. YOU SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGHEST BOUNTY HUNTER IN GALAXY.
YOU NO LOOK SO TOUGH TO ME.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
MAYBE YOU DON'T...
...BUT HE DOES.
NO BETTER WAY TO MAKE A REPUTATION...
...THAN KILLING JANGO FETT!

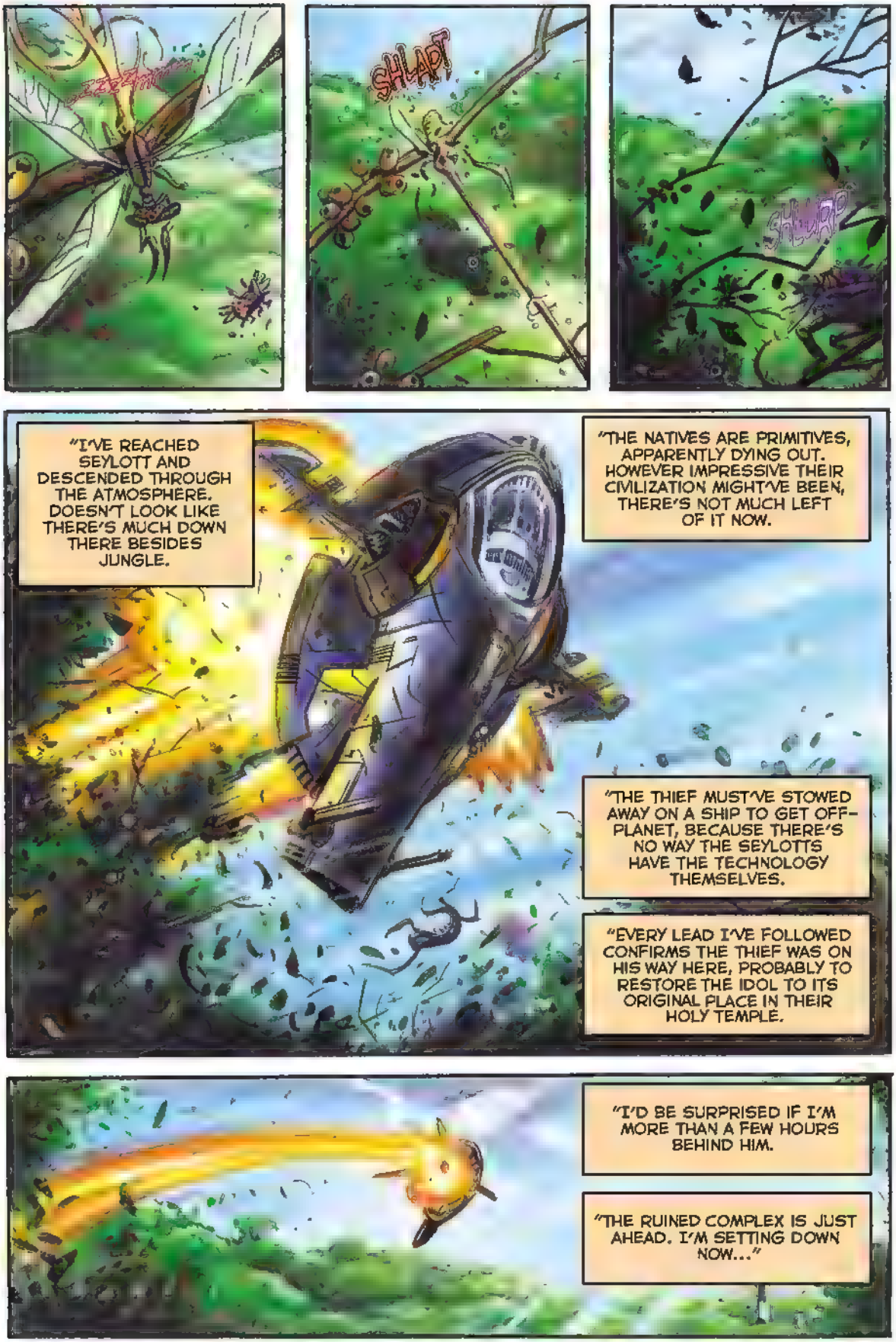
CHUMF
EYAAH!
NUH...
...NO...
ghhnn
GHRK
DO YOU WANT THIS TO BE THE LUCKIEST DAY OF YOUR LIFE... OR THE LAST?
LUCKIEST!
LUCKIEST!

LUCKIEST THEN.
WHAK
ANYONE ELSE FEEL THE NEED TO PROVE THEMSELVES?
ANYONE?
GOOD.


AH.
JANGO FETT. I'M FERNOODA.
I TRUST THAT UNPLEASANTNESS OUTSIDE WASN'T TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER?
NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
MY EMPLOYER WILL BE MOST PLEASED YOU'VE DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT...
PLEASE, SIT.
I'LL STAND.
AND I HAVEN'T ACCEPTED ANYTHING YET.
SUIT YOURSELF.
THIS IS WHY YOU'RE HERE.

IT'S A RARE ARTIFACT FROM THE PLANET SEYLOTT, A RELIGIOUS IDOL OF THE INDIGENOUS CULTURE.
THE PIECE IS PART OF MY EMPLOYER'S EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF PRIMITIVE ART. OR AT LEAST IT WAS...
...UNTIL IT WAS STOLEN. A MEMBER OF SEYLOTT'S NATIVE SPECIES SOMEHOW MANAGED TO GET HIS HANDS ON THE IDOL.
IT'S ASSUMED HE'S HEADED HOME WITH IT NOW, BUT THAT'S MERELY A GUESS.
MY EMPLOYER IS OFFERING FIFTY THOUSAND REPUBLIC CREDITS FOR THE ARTIFACT'S SAFE RETURN.
THAT'S A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY FOR A CURIO.
AS I SAID, IT'S A RARE PIECE.
AND MY EMPLOYER IS QUITE PROUD OF HIS COLLECTION.
I DON'T TAKE ANY JOB UNLESS I KNOW WHO I'M WORKING FOR.
MM, YES. I'M AFRAID MY EMPLOYER WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS. HENCE THE HANDSOME STIPEND OFFERED FOR THE ARTIFACT'S RETRIEVAL.

IF I'M NOT GOING TO FIND OUT WHO I'M WORKING FOR...
...THE PRICE DOUBLES.
VERY WELL.
ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND -- WHEN YOU RETRIEVE THE ARTIFACT AND RETURN IT HERE TO ME.
AND, OBVIOUSLY, WE DEPEND UPON YOUR SENSE OF DISCRETION. NO ONE MUST KNOW ABOUT THIS.
IN THIS LINE OF WORK YOU DON'T LAST VERY LONG IF YOU'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH.
IT'S A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.
WE'LL SEE.
HE TOOK THE JOB.
BEEP!


SHLAPT
SHLURP
"I'VE REACHED SEYLOTT AND DESCENDED THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE. DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH DOWN THERE BESIDES JUNGLE.
"THE NATIVES ARE PRIMITIVES, APPARENTLY DYING OUT. HOWEVER IMPRESSIVE THEIR CIVILIZATION MIGHT'VE BEEN, THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT OF IT NOW.
"THE THIEF MUST'VE STOWED AWAY ON A SHIP TO GET OFF-PLANET, BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY THE SEYLOTTS HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY THEMSELVES.
"EVERY LEAD I'VE FOLLOWED CONFIRMS THE THIEF WAS ON HIS WAY HERE, PROBABLY TO RESTORE THE IDOL TO ITS ORIGINAL PLACE IN THEIR HOLY TEMPLE.
"I'D BE SURPRISED IF I'M MORE THAN A FEW HOURS BEHIND HIM.
"THE RUINED COMPLEX IS JUST AHEAD. I'M SETTING DOWN NOW..."

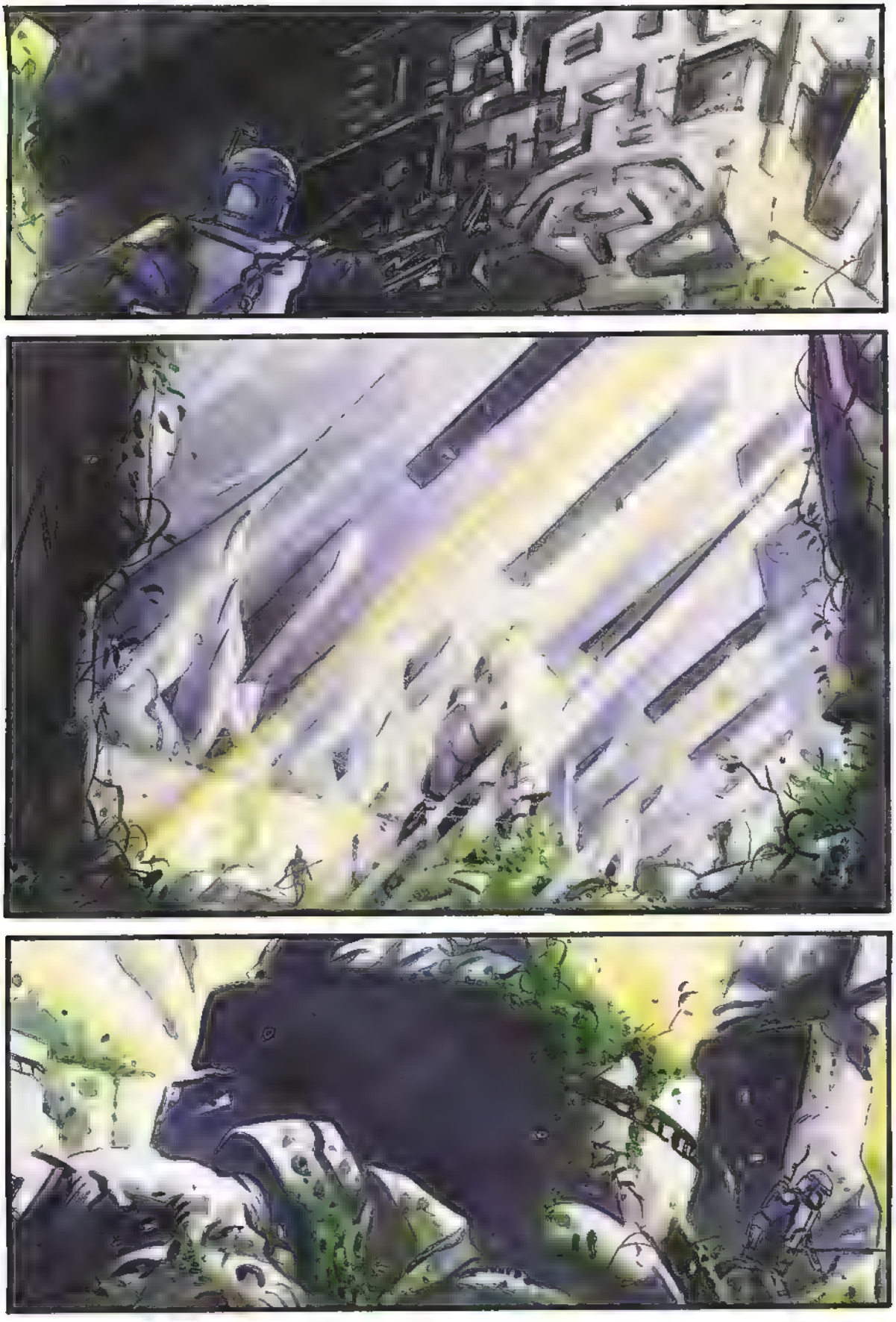
...SO I DOUBT THIS SHOULD TAKE MUCH LONGER, MU-12. I EXPECT TO BE HOME WITHIN A DAY. MAYBE LESS.
HOW'S BOBA?
MISSING HIS FATHER, BUT OTHERWISE QUITE WELL, SIR.
I'VE HAD ANOTHER COUPLE OF MISFIRES WITH THE JETPACK. DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO GIVE IT AN OVERHAUL?
YOU DID, SIR, BUT YOU DEPARTED SO QUICKLY I WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE JOB. MY SUSPICION IS IT'S ONLY A SPORADIC MALFUNCTION. IT'S POSSIBLE YOU WON'T EXPERIENCE ANY FURTHER DIFFICULTY.
HOW REASSURING.
GOOD LUCK AND GOOD HUNTING, SIR. I'M SURE YOUR QUARRY IS --
SELL YOU FOR SCRAP IF YOU DIDN'T TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF MY SON.

VRMMMMM

HAROOT

HAROOT

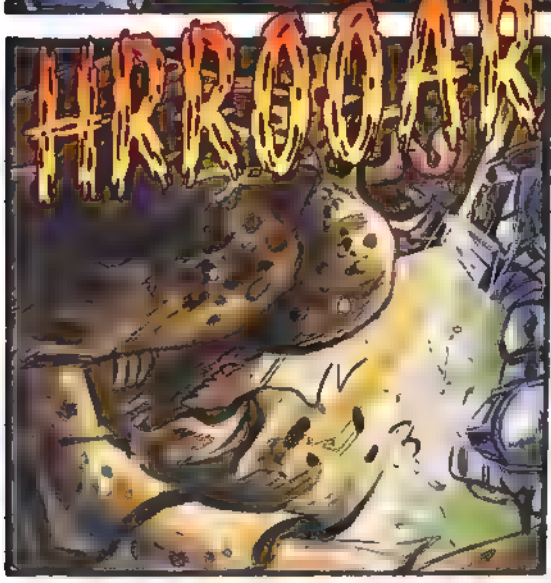
HAROOT

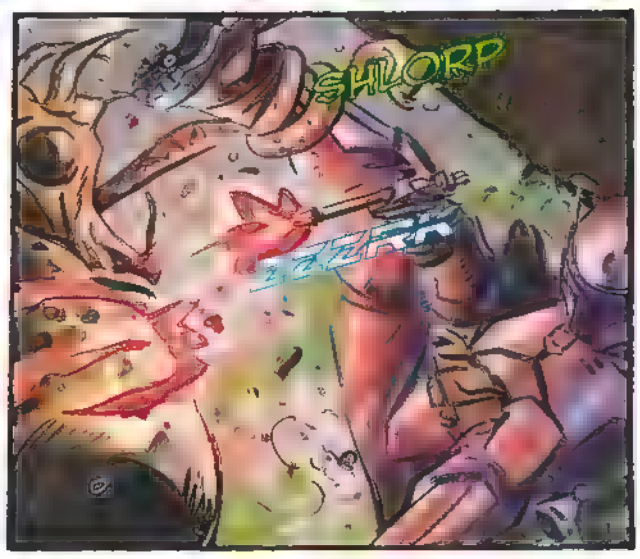


KRRRRMBL

CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
SP—
SP—
SPU—
SPUT
DAMN.
SHLIMF
SKREEEEEK
GHAA!
NF.

HHHRRRRRRRR





BWOOM
HREEEECH
NGF!

SKRAKK

THE IDOL.
HAND IT OVER AND YOU WON'T BE HURT.
HNFF?

HWFF!
DAMN FORCE-SENSITIVES.

EEYAAGH!
GLLRG...
TINK
...hnngh...
...ghhh...
THIS...

...IS COMING WITH ME.
Please...
...you must not...
...must not take away the infant again ... it must rest with the mother...
...return the infant to the womb ... for it is the destroyer of worlds...
DESTROYER OF WORLDS?
IT'S A PIECE OF STONE.
skaff
...you do not understand...
...the infant must rest with the mother...
skaff kaff
...or suffer the infant's rage...
...suffer...

TURN AROUND, JANGO...

...SLOWLY.
WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS, ZAM.
PEOPLE WILL TALK, WON'T THEY?
THAT LOOKS HEAVY. WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TAKE IT?
HE HIRED YOU, TOO, DIDN'T HE?
I HAD TO MAKE UP FOR LOST PROFITS --
-- SOMEBODY KILLED MY LAST EMPLOYER BEFORE I COULD COLLECT.
FERNOODA WAS HEDGING HIS BETS. THE ODDS ARE A LITTLE BETTER IF YOU SEND TWO BOUNTY HUNTERS FOR ONE JOB.
I JUST THOUGHT I'D LET YOU DO ALL THE HARD WORK.

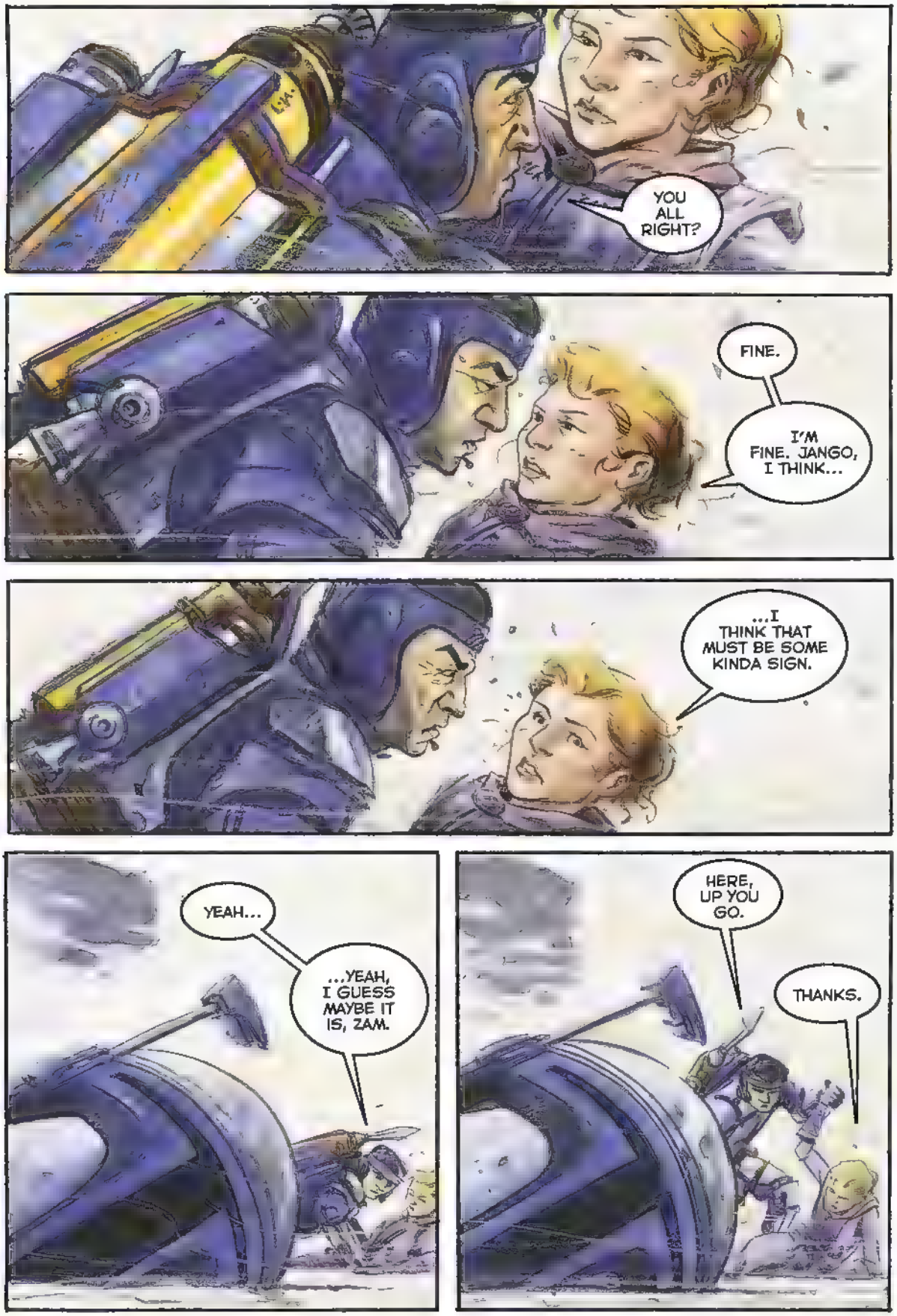
WE REALLY WOULD MAKE A HELL OF A TEAM, JANGO. YOU KNOW THAT?
I ALWAYS WORK ALONE.
THAT'S THE SHAME OF IT. WE BOTH DO.
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SO LONG, JANGO. AND I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE HIDING UNDER THAT HELMET OF YOURS.
HOW ABOUT A PEEK?
MAYBE ANOTHER TIME.
MAYBE NOW.
TUNK
SINCE YOU ASKED SO NICELY...
Hmm.
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S WHAT I EXPECTED OR NOT, BUT--

HNGF?!
SHLORP
NGH
JANGO!
JANGO!

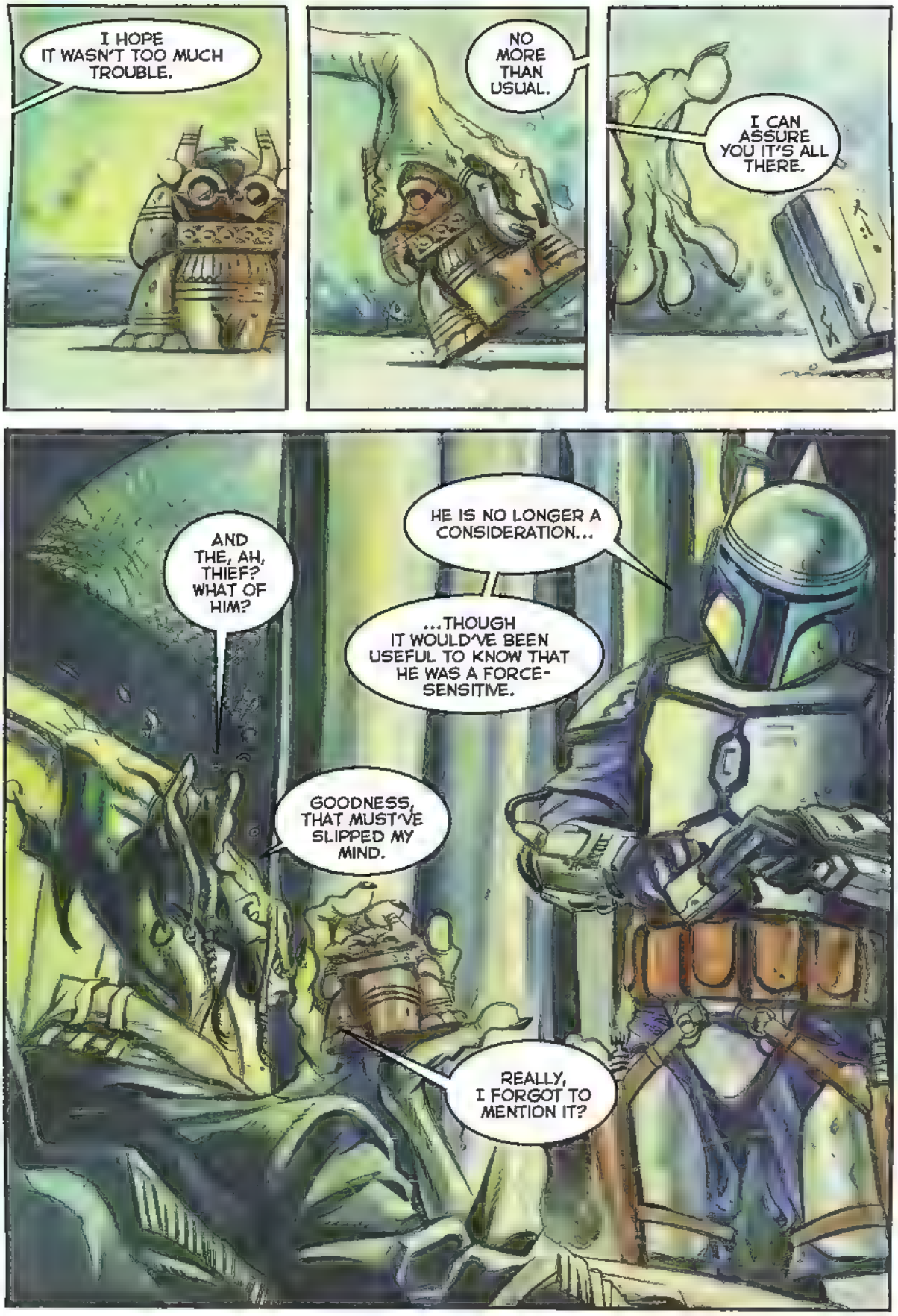
:sigh:

HOLD ON!
:GHH:
EXPLOSIVES...
...ARE YOU CARRYING ANY EXPLOSIVES?
WHAT AM I, AN AMATEUR?
THEN POP THEM AND DROP THEM!
ALL OF THEM!
ALL OF THEM?! AREN'T WE A LITTLE CLOSE?!
NO.
AND THIS IS HELPING US HOW?
TIH TIH TIH TIH TIH TIH TIH TIH TIH
BEEEEE

FWOOSH!

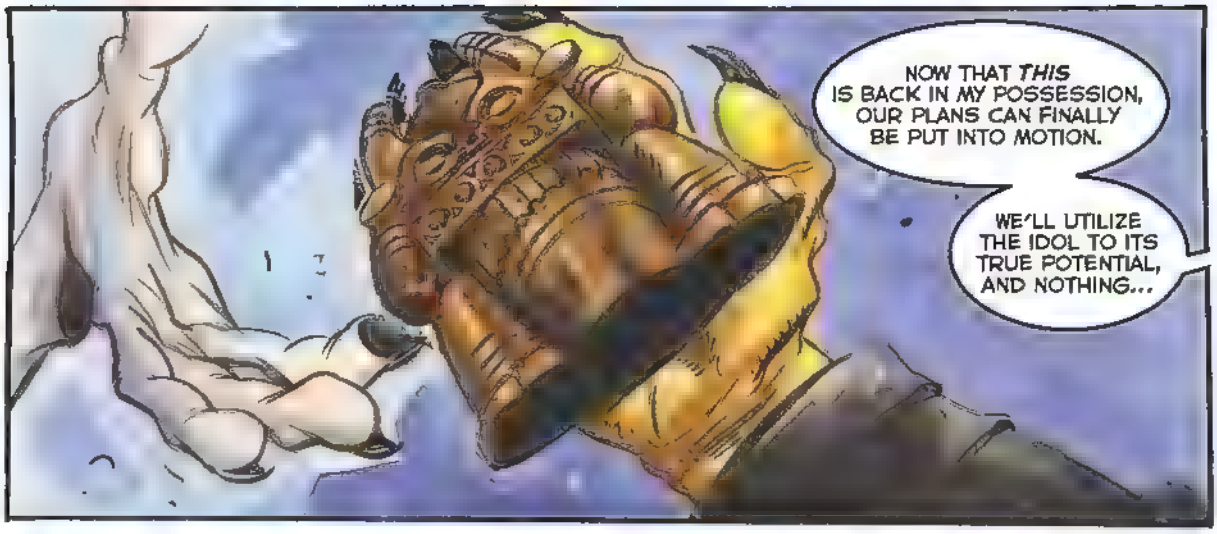

YOU ALL RIGHT?
FINE.
I'M FINE. JANGO, I THINK...
...I THINK THAT MUST BE SOME KINDA SIGN.
YEAH...
...YEAH, I GUESS MAYBE IT IS, ZAM.
HERE, UP YOU GO.
THANKS.

SURE.
NO, I MEAN, *THANK YOU*, FOR COMING BACK FOR ME.
IT ... SEEMED LIKE THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
IT WAS.
SO, I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D AGREE TO A TRADE. THIS FOR THE IDOL?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I DIDN'T EITHER...
...BUT IT WAS WORTH A TRY, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, I FIGURE WE'RE EVEN.
THIS IS THE PART WHERE I SAY TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, JANGO...
...UNTIL NEXT TIME.
THERE'S GOING TO BE A NEXT TIME?
Oh...
...I THINK YOU CAN ALMOST COUNT ON IT.


I HOPE IT WASN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
NO MORE THAN USUAL.
I CAN ASSURE YOU IT'S ALL THERE.
AND THE, AH, THIEF? WHAT OF HIM?
HE IS NO LONGER A CONSIDERATION...
...THOUGH IT WOULD'VE BEEN USEFUL TO KNOW THAT HE WAS A FORCE-SENSITIVE.
GOODNESS, THAT MUST'VE SLIPPED MY MIND.
REALLY, I FORGOT TO MENTION IT?

GLRK
YOU DID --
--JUST LIKE YOU FORGOT TO MENTION YOU'D HIRED ANOTHER BOUNTY HUNTER ... AS INSURANCE.
YOU *LIED* TO ME.
NO ONE'S EVER LIED TO ME TWICE.
THIS BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP IS AT AN END.
DON'T CONTACT ME AGAIN.
DO I MAKE MYSELF UNDERSTOOD?
Yes.
GOOD.
BECAUSE IF I EVER SEE YOU AGAIN, FERNOODA...
...I WILL KILL YOU.

THE BOUNTY HUNTER SUSPECTS NOTHING.
HE WAS AS YOU SAID HE WOULD BE...
...ABRASIVE, BUT EXTREMELY CAPABLE. HE DELIVERED THE ITEM...
...AND AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S IN PERFECT CONDITION.
JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, GENERAL, NEITHER YOUR IDENTITY NOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT WAS COMPROMISED.
EXCELLENT.
YOUR HANDLING OF THE MATTER SPEAKS WELL OF YOUR DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE, FERNOODA.


NOW THAT *THIS* IS BACK IN MY POSSESSION, OUR PLANS CAN FINALLY BE PUT INTO MOTION.
WE'LL UTILIZE THE IDOL TO ITS TRUE POTENTIAL, AND NOTHING...

...*NOTHING* WILL STOP US FROM DESTROYING THE *HEART* OF THIS CORRUPT, SICKLY REPUBLIC.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE *STAYING* AWHILE THIS TIME, DADDY?
DON'T WORRY, BOBA.
NOTHING COULD DRAG ME AWAY.
END

Zam Wesell | illustration courtesy of Lucasfilm

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

script by Ron Marz

art by Ted Naifeh

colors by Dave Stewart and Digital Chameleon

letters by Digital Chameleon

"MY FELLOW MASTERS, THE REPUBLIC FACES A GRAVE THREAT..."

...AND IT FALLS TO THE JEDI COUNCIL TO AVERT IT.

OUR INFORMANTS HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION CONCERNING GENERAL ASHAAR KHORDA, THE ANNOO-DAT RADICAL.

IF THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT, AND WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE IT IS, KHORDA HAS OBTAINED A MYSTERIOUS WEAPON WITH WHICH HE INTENDS TO STRIKE AGAINST THE REPUBLIC.

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR SOURCE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PIN-POINT THE GENERAL'S EXACT TARGET.

THE BEST WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IS NARROW THE LIST OF POSSIBLE TARGETS TO THREE:

ALDERAAN...

...CORELLIA...

...AND CORUSCANT.

HE LED A MILITARY COUP ON ANNOO, AND WOULD'VE SUCCEEDED IN OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT IF THE REPUBLIC HADN'T INTERCEDED. AND THERE WERE ACCUSATIONS OF WAR CRIMES--

YES, BUT KHORDA ESCAPED BEFORE HE COULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL.

NOW HE FANCIES HIMSELF A FREEDOM FIGHTER AGAINST THE REPUBLIC'S TYRANNY.

AND HE'S APPARENTLY WILLING TO TAKE INNOCENT LIVES TO PROVE HIS POINT.

WHAT SORT OF WEAPON DOES HE POSSESS?

UNKNOWN TO US, EVEN THAT IS.

A DEVICE OF SUCH DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITY MUST SURELY CREATE RIPPLES IN THE FORCE. RIPPLES THAT COULD BE SENSED.
TRULY YOU SPEAK, YARAEL POOF.
TRUSTED EVEN TO OUR JEDI KNIGHTS, THIS TASK CANNOT BE. ONE MEMBER TO EACH PLANET THE COUNCIL WILL SEND.
FIND THIS WEAPON WE MUST.
I WILL SAFEGUARD CORELLIA.
AND I WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALDERAAN.
THANK YOU, EETH KOTH.
AND YOU, OPPO RANCISIS.
IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS, I WILL SEE TO CORUSCANT'S PROTECTION MYSELF.
IF I MAY, MASTER WINDU...

...PERHAPS I WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE.
MY MENTAL ABILITIES ARE REASONABLY WELL HONED. THEY COULD PROVE TO BE ADVANTAGEOUS IN SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.
NO OFFENSE INTENDED TO YOU, MASTER WINDU.
NO OFFENSE TAKEN, MASTER POOF.
I BOW TO YOUR GREATER WISDOM IN THIS AFFAIR.
DECIDED THEN, THE MATTER IS. OPPO RANCISIS, EETH KOTH, YARAEL POOF...
...MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

SPISH
SPASH
I'LL GET IT.
DAD...

...THERE'S A LADY HERE.
THIS MUST BE YOURS.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BOBA FETT.
MY FATHER IS--
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BOBA...

...I WAS EXPECTING HER.
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE I'D CALL HER A LADY.
YOU ALWAYS KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO SAY...
...DON'T YOU, JANGO FETT?
BOBA, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET ZAM WESELL.
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
LIKEWISE, BOBA.

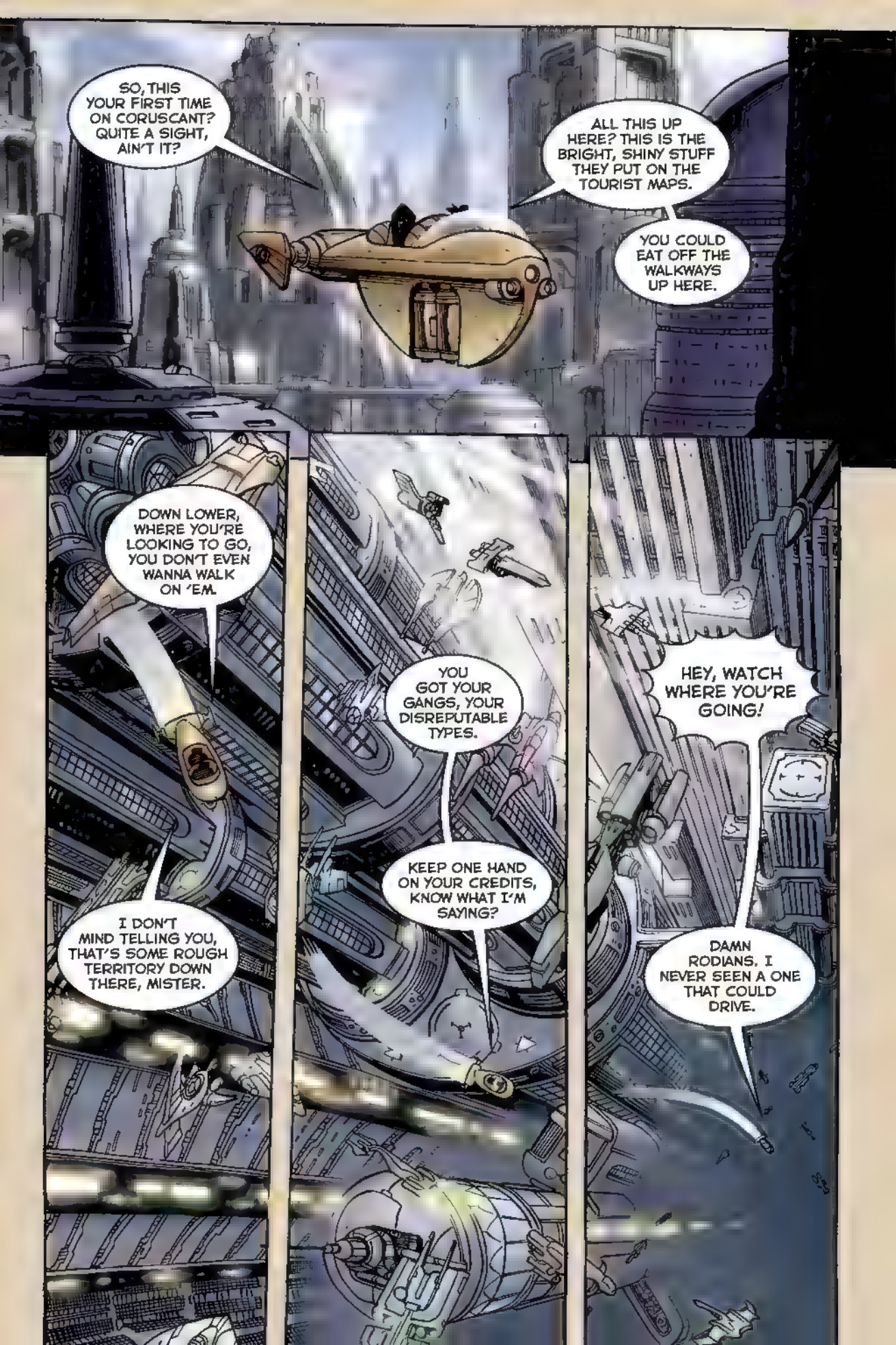
BOBA, WHY DON'T YOU GO INSIDE AND DRY OFF.
I'LL BE IN SOON.
OKAY, DAD.
IT WAS VERY NICE TO MEET YOU, ZAM WESELL.
WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY BETTER MANNERED THAN HIS FATHER.
HIS MOTHER'S INFLUENCE, I'M SURE.
HE DOESN'T HAVE A MOTHER.
Oh.
I'M SORRY.
HE DOES LOOK JUST LIKE YOU.
SO YOU COULDN'T FIND A BETTER DAY TO PLAY BALL?
THIS *IS* A BETTER DAY ON KAMINO.
COME ON, WE SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE THE SENSE NOT TO STAND OUT IN IT.
SO?
ALWAYS RIGHT TO THE POINT. DO YOU REMEMBER THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER?
I REMEMBER I SAVED YOUR LIFE. YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO THANK ME AGAIN?

YOU'RE NOT REACHING FOR SOMETHING WE'LL BOTH REGRET, ARE YOU?
I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, JANGO...
...YOU PUT YOUR HANDS ON ME, YOU'D BETTER MEAN BUSINESS.
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
HMM.
I ASSUME THIS WILL BE FAMILIAR?
YOU WERE WORKING FOR GENERAL ASHAAR KHORDA.
THAT'S THE ARTIFACT I RETRIEVED. PAID WELL, BUT I NEVER MET MY EMPLOYER-- JUST THAT DAMN DUG GO-BETWEEN.
THE ANNOO-DAT?
FROM WHAT LITTLE I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM HE DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS A CONNOISSEUR OF PRIMITIVE ART.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU IT'S A WEAPON CAPABLE OF DESTROYING AN ENTIRE PLANET-- AND THAT KHORDA'S GOING TO USE IT?
SUPPOSING FOR THE MOMENT THIS IS TRUE...
IT'S TRUE.
THE NATIVES OF SEYLOTT, WHERE IT CAME FROM, WERE FORCE-SENSITIVE, RIGHT?
SO IS THE ARTI-FACT. ONCE TRIGGERED, IT SUPPOSEDLY CAUSES A DIS-TURBANCE IN THE FORCE LARGE ENOUGH TO RIP APART A WORLD.
CORUSCANT, TO BE EXACT.
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT HERE JUST FOR SHOW AND TELL. WHAT'S THE REST?
WHO'S PAYING AND HOW MUCH?
NO ONE AND NOTHING. THIS ONE'S FOR FREE.
WHAT? YOU HAVE TO BE KIDDING. I DON'T DO CHARITY WORK.
WE'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS, ZAM. NOT HEROES.
IF THIS IS TRUE, WHY DON'T YOU TURN IT OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES?

BECAUSE YOU KNOW THERE'S NO ONE BETTER THAN ME. AND YOU'RE A CLOSE SECOND.
I THINK YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS.
I'M SURE YOU DO.
LOOK, JANGO, *YOU* PUT THE ARTIFACT IN KHORDA'S HANDS.
BUT IT COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE BEEN *ME*.
I WON'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AN ENTIRE PLANET BEING WIPED OUT...
YOU KNOW HOW THIS WORKS, ZAM. IT'S A JOB. WE DON'T GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED.
AS FAR AS THAT GOES, THERE'S PLENTY OF BLOOD ON *BOTH* OUR HANDS.
NOT LIKE THIS.
EXECUTING A MARK, SOMEONE WHO PROBABLY DESERVES IT ANYWAY, IS A LOT DIFFERENT THAN LOOKING THE OTHER WAY WHILE A WORLD DIES.
BILLIONS OF PEOPLE, JANGO.
MY SON NEEDS ME.

HOW MANY SONS DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ON CORUSCANT?
DID YOU KNOW I WAS AN ORPHAN?
MY FAMILY HAD A FARM. THERE WAS A CIVIL WAR. WE GOT CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME...
...IF SOMEONE HADN'T COME ALONG AND SAVED ME.
WE'LL TAKE MY SHIP.


SO, THIS YOUR FIRST TIME ON CORUSCANT? QUITE A SIGHT, AIN'T IT?
ALL THIS UP HERE? THIS IS THE BRIGHT, SHINY STUFF THEY PUT ON THE TOURIST MAPS.
YOU COULD EAT OFF THE WALKWAYS UP HERE.
DOWN LOWER, WHERE YOU'RE LOOKING TO GO, YOU DON'T EVEN WANNA WALK ON 'EM.
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, THAT'S SOME ROUGH TERRITORY DOWN THERE, MISTER.
YOU GOT YOUR GANGS, YOUR DISREPUTABLE TYPES.
KEEP ONE HAND ON YOUR CREDITS, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING?
HEY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
DAMN RODIANS. I NEVER SEEN A ONE THAT COULD DRIVE.

HERE YOU GO, MISTER. THIS IS THE ADDRESS YOU ASKED FOR...
...BUT I GOTTA BE HONEST, THIS IS NO PLACE TO BE.
YOU SURE YOU WANNA GET OUT HERE?
THIS WILL BE FINE.
SUIT YOURSELF.
THAT'S FIFTEEN CREDITS YOU OWE ME. NEED ANY HELP WITH THAT BOX YOU GOT?
NO.
THANK YOU.
FIFTEEN CREDITS. AND A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA FOR YOU.
gk

THANKS FOR THE RIDE.
VREET

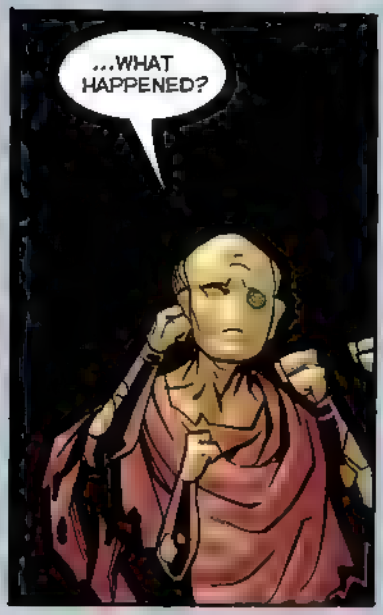
AH, YOU'RE HERE.
ANY PROBLEMS, SIR?
NONE I DIDN'T TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, FERNOODA.
OF COURSE. THE OTHERS ARE GATHERED AND WAITING FOR YOU, GENERAL KHORDA.
EXCELLENT.

I'M PLEASED TO SEE ALL OF YOU.
YOU HONOR ME WITH YOUR PRESENCE.
THE HOUR OF OUR TRIUMPH IS CLOSE AT HAND.
YOU ARE MY CHOSEN FEW, THE BEST OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN OUR RIGHTEOUS CAUSE. I HAVE SELECTED YOU FOR YOUR SKILLS, YES...
...BUT ABOVE ALL, BECAUSE YOUR DEVOTION TO THIS GLORIOUS UNDERTAKING IS ABSOLUTE.
TOGETHER WE WILL FINALLY STRIKE A DEATHBLOW AGAINST THE CORRUPT, BLOATED CREATURE THAT IS THE SO-CALLED REPUBLIC.
I WITNESSED IT UPON MY HOMEWORLD. I WITNESSED THIS TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT IMPOSE ITS UNJUST WILL UPON A SOVEREIGN PLANET.
BUT I KNOW ANNOO'S FATE IS NOT UNIQUE. ANNOO WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER SYMPTOM OF THE DISEASE WE FIGHT.
SO WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TO PURSUE A FINAL SOLUTION. IN ORDER TO SAVE THE BODY OF THE REPUBLIC...
...WE MUST DESTROY ITS INFECTED BRAIN.
EACH OF YOU HAS YOUR REASONS...

...YOUR GRIEVANCES AGAINST THESE OVERLORDS WE MUST TOPPLE.
PERHAPS YOU SERVED WITH ME UPON ANNOO...
...OR YOU HAVE BEEN BRANDED OUTLAWS AND WRONGLY PURSUED...
...OR YOU HAVE LONG WANTED TO PUNISH THE REPUBLIC BUT LACKED THE MEANS.
WHATEVER YOUR MOTIVATIONS...
...YOU HOLD IN COMMON YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR THE CAUSE.
WE WILL BE SWIFT.
WE WILL BE DEADLY.
WE WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE.
THIS SLIPPED FROM MY GRASP FOR A TIME. BUT ONCE AGAIN I HOLD THE INSTRUMENT OF OUR VENGEANCE...
...AND WITH IT WE WILL REDUCE CORUSCANT TO DUST!

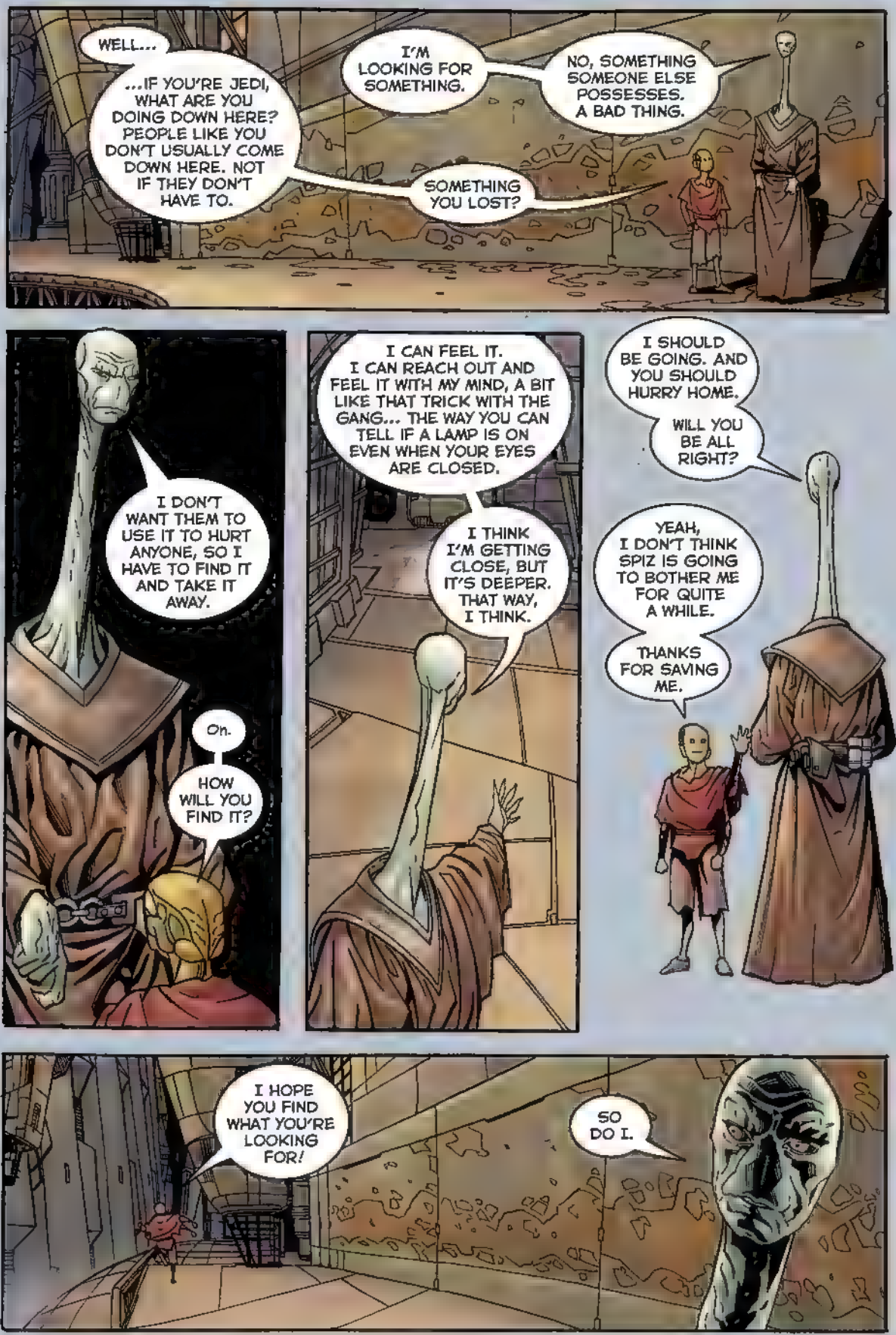
PLEASE...
...I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING!
NOBODY SAID YOU DID, BRAT!
GET HIM!
DEAD END.
PRETTY GOOD CHASE THIS TIME, BRAT, BUT YEAH...
...DEAD END.
...SOMEBODY, PLEASE HELP ME!
Uhh...

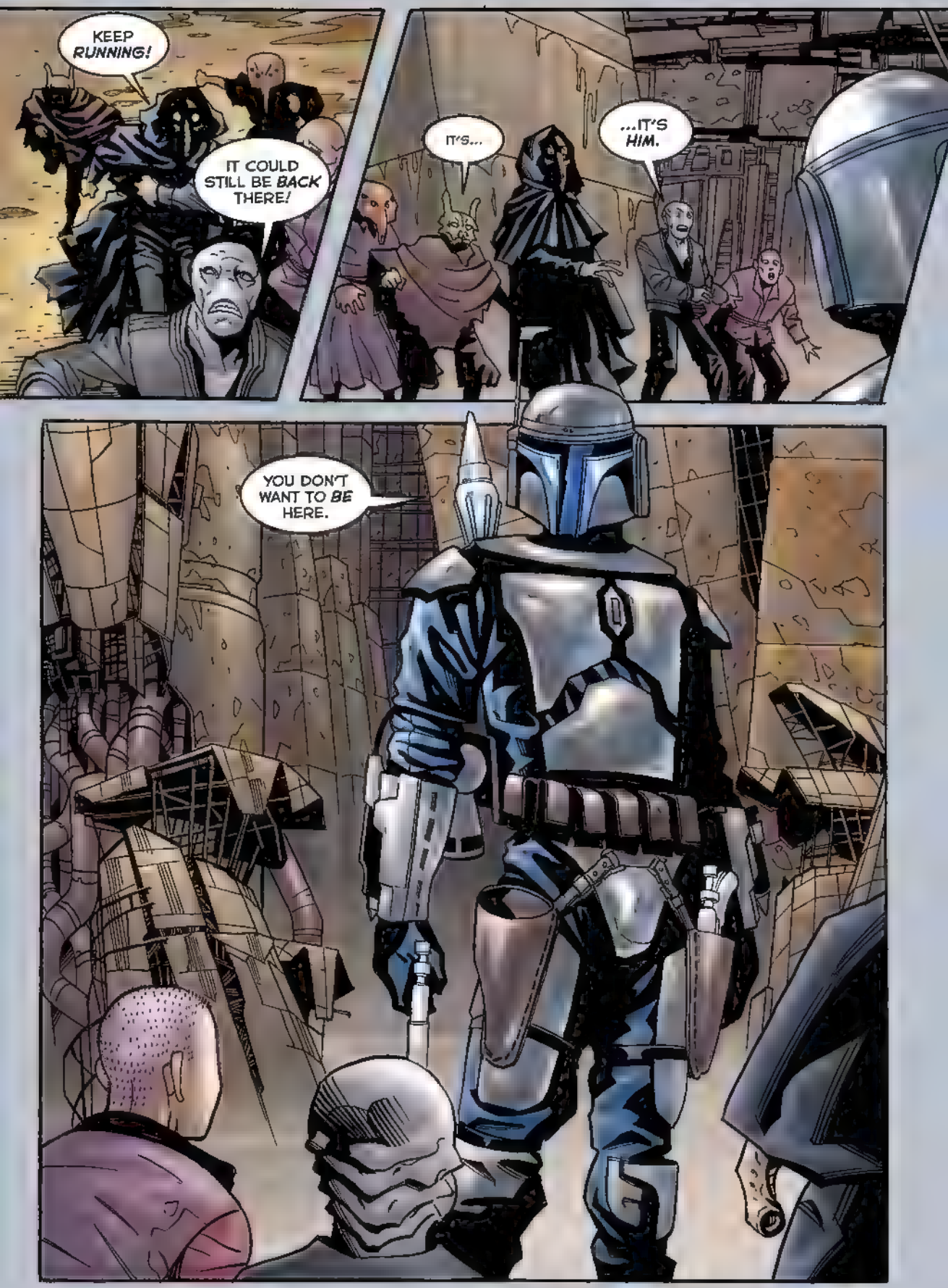
IT CAN HAVE THE BRAT!
RUN!


...WHAT HAPPENED?

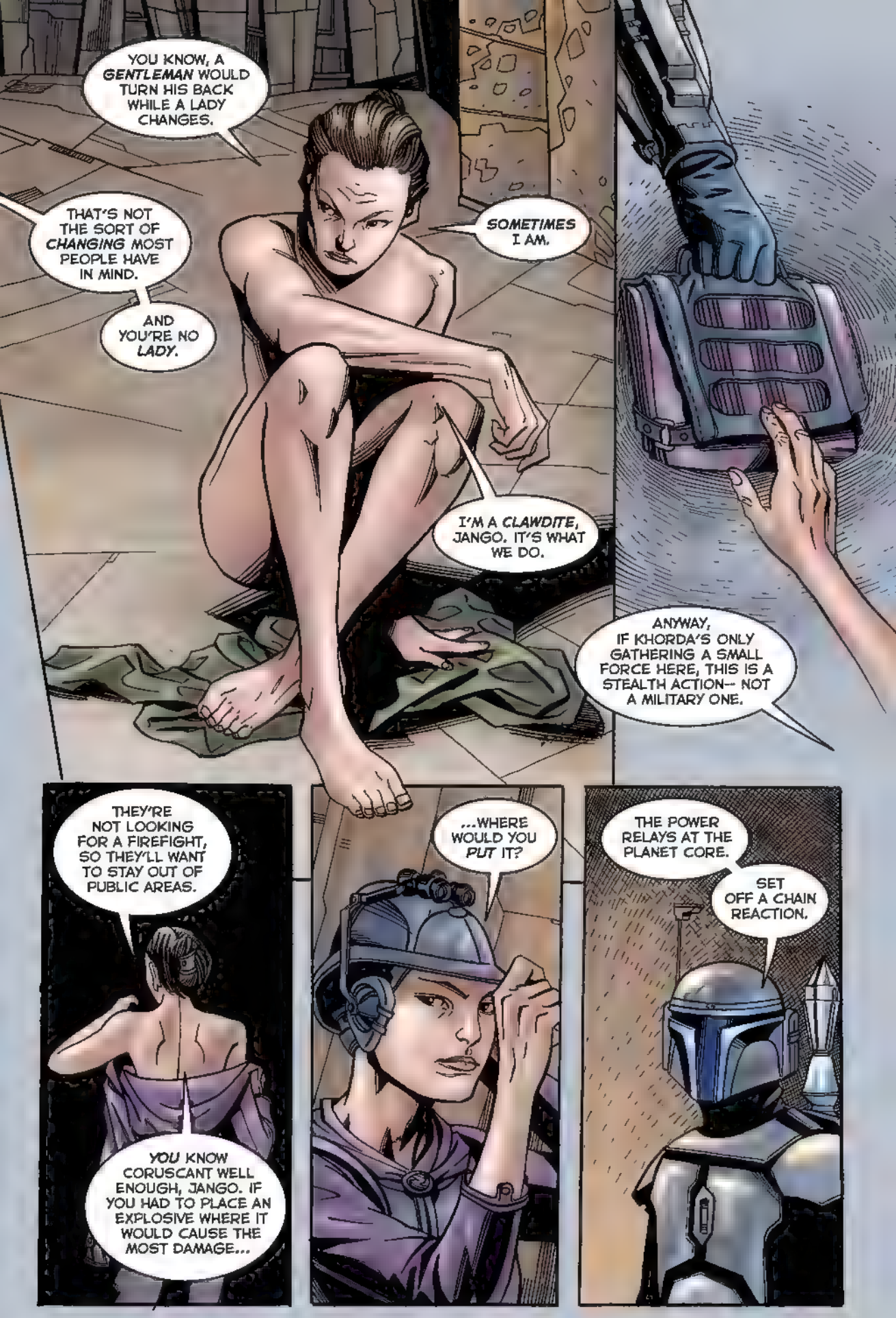
I BELIEVE THEY SAW SOMETHING THAT FRIGHTENED THEM...

...AND A GOOD THING FOR YOU THEY DID, MY YOUNG FRIEND.
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
OH...
...I JUST HAPPENED TO BE HERE.
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. I WAS JUST WALKING HOME. BUT SPIZ'S GANG IS ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR ME.
IT WASN'T YOU THEY WERE SCARED OF, WAS IT?
NOT REALLY, NO.
VERY OFTEN THOSE WHO ARE FEARFUL LASH OUT AT OTHERS TO MAKE THEMSELVES FEEL SAFE.
I HELPED MAKE THEIR FEARS A LITTLE MORE VISIBLE TO THEM.
ARE YOU...
...ONE OF THEM?
A QUERMIAN?
INDEED.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
I MEAN ARE YOU A JEDI?
I AM YARAEL POOF.
A MEMBER OF THE JEDI COUNCIL.


WELL...
...IF YOU'RE JEDI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? PEOPLE LIKE YOU DON'T USUALLY COME DOWN HERE. NOT IF THEY DON'T HAVE TO.
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.
NO, SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE POSSESSES. A BAD THING.
SOMETHING YOU LOST?
I DON'T WANT THEM TO USE IT TO HURT ANYONE, SO I HAVE TO FIND IT AND TAKE IT AWAY.
Oh.
HOW WILL YOU FIND IT?
I CAN FEEL IT. I CAN REACH OUT AND FEEL IT WITH MY MIND, A BIT LIKE THAT TRICK WITH THE GANG... THE WAY YOU CAN TELL IF A LAMP IS ON EVEN WHEN YOUR EYES ARE CLOSED.
I THINK I'M GETTING CLOSE, BUT IT'S DEEPER. THAT WAY, I THINK.
I SHOULD BE GOING. AND YOU SHOULD HURRY HOME.
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I DON'T THINK SPIZ IS GOING TO BOTHER ME FOR QUITE A WHILE.
THANKS FOR SAVING ME.
I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!
SO DO I.


KEEP RUNNING!
IT COULD STILL BE BACK THERE!
IT'S...
...IT'S HIM.
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE.

AAAAH!
THE GREAT JANGO FETT-- REDUCED TO SCARING A BUNCH OF TEENAGE HOOLIGANS.
SUCH A SHAME TO SEE A BOUNTY HUNTER WHO'S LOST HIS EDGE.
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?
I LEARNED THE FOOD AT THE *TWIRLING TWI'LEK* STINKS.
I *ALSO* LEARNED NOBODY'S TALKING VERY MUCH...
...NOT EVEN TO A *DUG* NAMED *FERNOODA* WHO'S KNOWN TO HAVE CLOSE TIES TO GENERAL KHORDA.
BUT TONGUES TEND TO LOOSEN AFTER YOU BUY ENOUGH *DRINKS*.
KHORDA HIMSELF HASN'T BEEN SEEN, BUT A HALF-DOZEN OF HIS ASSOCIATES ARE *DEFINITELY* HERE.
IT'S A SAFE BET KHORDA'S HERE AS WELL. HE'S JUST BEEN MORE CAREFUL ABOUT ANNOUNCING IT.

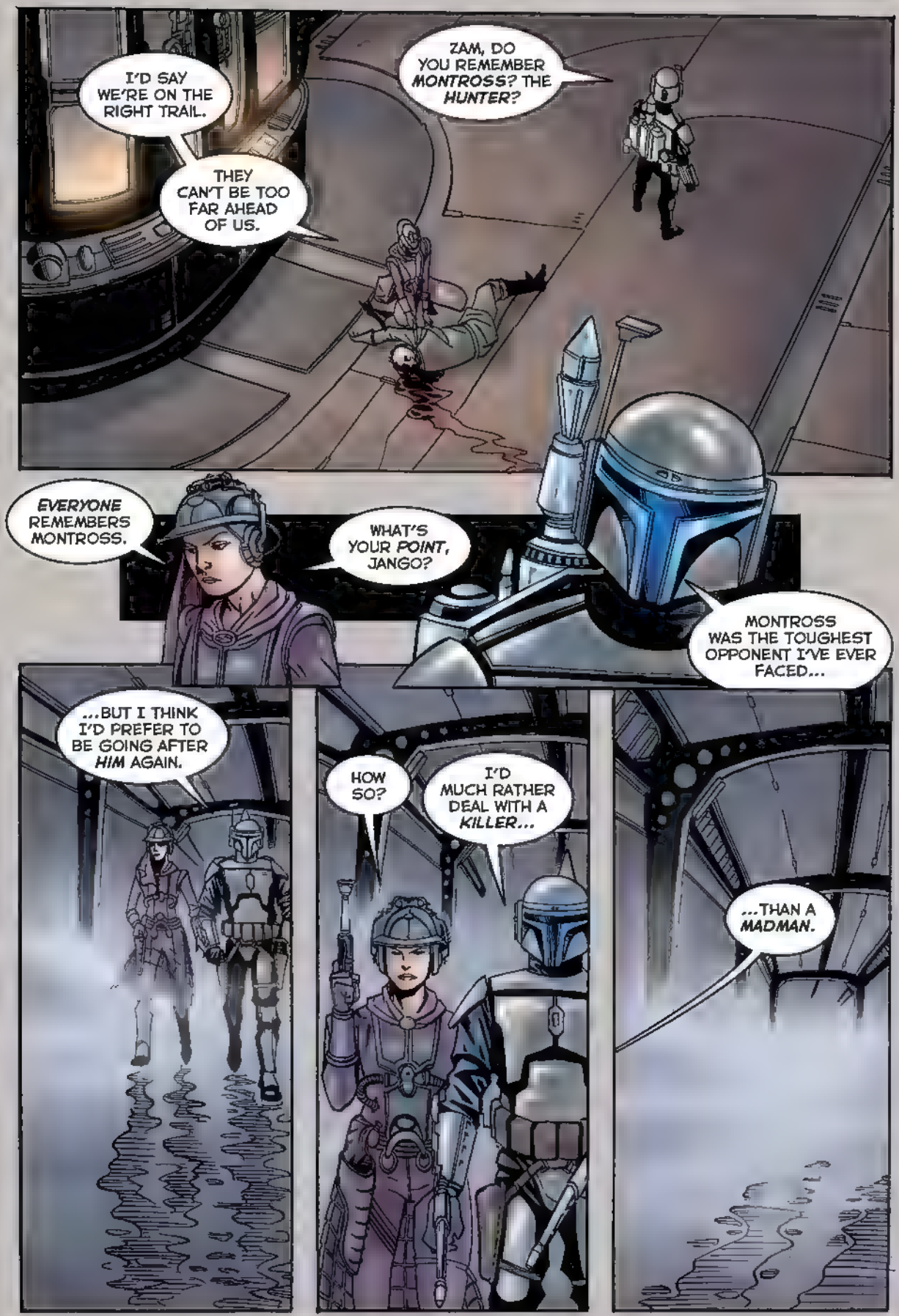

YOU KNOW, A *GENTLEMAN* WOULD TURN HIS BACK WHILE A LADY CHANGES.
THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF *CHANGING* MOST PEOPLE HAVE IN MIND.
AND YOU'RE NO *LADY*.
SOMETIMES I AM.
I'M A *CLAWDITE*, JANGO. IT'S WHAT WE DO.
ANYWAY, IF KHORDA'S ONLY GATHERING A SMALL FORCE HERE, THIS IS A STEALTH ACTION-- NOT A MILITARY ONE.
THEY'RE NOT LOOKING FOR A FIREFIGHT, SO THEY'LL WANT TO STAY OUT OF PUBLIC AREAS.
YOU KNOW CORUSCANT WELL ENOUGH, JANGO. IF YOU HAD TO PLACE AN EXPLOSIVE WHERE IT WOULD CAUSE THE MOST DAMAGE...
...WHERE WOULD YOU *PUT* IT?
THE POWER RELAYS AT THE PLANET CORE.
SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION.

ALL RIGHT, SO MAYBE YOU *HAVEN'T* LOST YOUR EDGE.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT *I'D* DO.
AND IT'S EXACTLY WHAT KHORDA'S GOING TO DO.
THANKS.
WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT *WHICH* CORE RELAY KHORDA'S HEADED FOR... AND *STOP* HIM.
FOR WHICH WE GET PAID THE HANDSOME FEE OF *NOTHING*.
THINK OF IT AS YOUR *PUBLIC SERVICE*, JANGO.
AFTER YOU.

THAT'S THE LAST GUARD STATION BEFORE THE RELAY...
...NOT THAT *ANY* GUARDS PRESENTED MUCH OF A PROBLEM.
WE'RE NOT THE *ONLY* ONES DYING FOR THE CAUSE.
VERY SOON, EVERY *LIVING* THING ON CORUSCANT'S GOING TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE.

GENERAL, HOW DO YOU INTEND TO *TRIGGER* THE IDOL?
I HEARD OF THE IDOL FROM A PRISONER I WAS... *INTERROGATING*. HE'D HEARD THE TALE FROM ANOTHER, WHO'D HEARD IT FROM ANOTHER.
NONE OF THEM BELIEVED IT WAS ANYTHING MORE THAN A *LEGEND*.
BUT I DISCOVERED THE IDOL WAS *REAL*. THE NATIVE SPECIES OF THE PLANET SEYLOTT CREATED IT. THEY'RE FORCE-SENSITIVES. THEY CALLED THE IDOL THE INFANT OF SHAA, AFTER THEIR DEITY.
WHETHER IT WAS INTENTIONAL OR NOT, THE IDOL IS A *RECEPTACLE* FOR THE FORCE.
ENOUGH RAW POWER WILL *SHATTER* IT--
--AND THE RELEASE OF ITS ENERGY WILL BE LIKE NOTHING THE GALAXY HAS EVER SEEN.
CORUSCANT'S DESTRUCTION WILL BE A BEACON VISIBLE FROM THE CORE WORLDS TO THE OUTER RIM.
WE SHOULD HAVE THE ACCESS BRIDGE ROTATED INTO PLACE IN A MOMENT, GENERAL.
THERE.
VREEP
ALL OF YOU, *DRINK IN* THIS MOMENT.
WE HAVE REACHED OUR JOURNEY'S END. THIS IS THE *PRELUDE* TO OUR GLORY.

WE STAND BEFORE THE BEATING HEART OF CORUSCANT, AND SOON WE WILL *STILL IT* FOREVER.


I'D SAY WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRAIL.
THEY CAN'T BE TOO FAR AHEAD OF US.
ZAM, DO YOU REMEMBER *MONTROSS*? THE *HUNTER*?
EVERYONE REMEMBERS MONTROSS.
WHAT'S YOUR *POINT*, JANGO?
MONTROSS WAS THE TOUGHEST OPPONENT I'VE EVER FACED...
...BUT I THINK I'D PREFER TO BE GOING AFTER *HIM* AGAIN.
HOW SO?
I'D MUCH RATHER DEAL WITH A *KILLER*...
...THAN A *MADMAN*.

I HAVE THEM.

OUR TIME HAS *COME*.
HERE, DEEP IN THE BOWELS OF CORUSCANT, IS THE *ALTAR* UPON WHICH WE WILL SACRIFICE OURSELVES.
YOU HAVE ALL FOLLOWED ME THIS FAR. NOW, TOGETHER, WE ARE ABOUT TO GO ON TO OUR GREAT REWARD.
WE *FEW*, ARMED WITH SOMETHING SO *SMALL*, WILL SUCCEED WHERE NO OTHER-- NO POLITICAL FORCE, NO ARMY, NO ARMADA OF WARSHIPS-- HAS BEEN ABLE.
WE WILL *SLAY* THE REPUBLIC!
GENERAL...
...WE'RE NOT *ALONE*.

STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND NO ONE NEED BE HURT.
WHO'S *THAT?*
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
EVERYBODY STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
KILL THEM.
KILL THEM ALL!

HE WANTS TO DIE A LITTLE SOONER THAN EVERYONE ELSE ON THIS PLANET...
...FINE BY ME.
THEN YOU HAVE CHOSEN YOUR OWN FATES.
VVMMMM
LOOK!
HE IS JEDI!
WHAT HE IS, IS DEAD.

WHAT'S A JEDI DOING HERE?
WHO CARES?
SHOW
IF HE'S TAKING SOME OF THE ATTENTION AWAY FROM US...
...SO MUCH THE BETTER.
GUHG!
KEAK

THOSE ARE THE BOUNTY HUNTERS WE HIRED TO RETRIEVE THE IDOL! WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?!
AND HOW DID THE JEDI DISCOVER US?!
NO MATTER...
...THEY CAN'T STOP WHAT'S COMING.
KRRIZZCH
VREEOW
VREEOW
GAAH!

WHMF!
VREEOW
TOO LATE, NOW.
FAR TOO LATE.
ANXIOUS TO DIE?
LET ME HELP.
WOKK
JANGO!

AAGH!
ZZZ ZAK
ZZZRIP
NNH!
HRRR
...MMMM...
!
NNRK
ZAM?
ARE YOU--
JUST MY SHOULDER, AND IT WENT THROUGH CLEAN.
ONCE I GET THIS RUG OFF OF ME I'LL BE FINE.
THE IDOL...

VREEOW
ZZRAP
GENERAL, HE'S COMING FOR US!
I TOLD YOU I'D KILL YOU IF I EVER SAW YOU AGAIN, FERNOODA.
BEEYOW
I KEEP MY PROMISES.
GHH

YOU'RE TOO LATE, JEDI!
TIME IS UP! YOUR TIME, THE REPUBLIC'S TIME!
IT'S ALL COMING TO AN END!
I CAN'T ALLOW THAT.
you can kill me...
...but not my cause...
COME.
GHHRRK
JEDI!

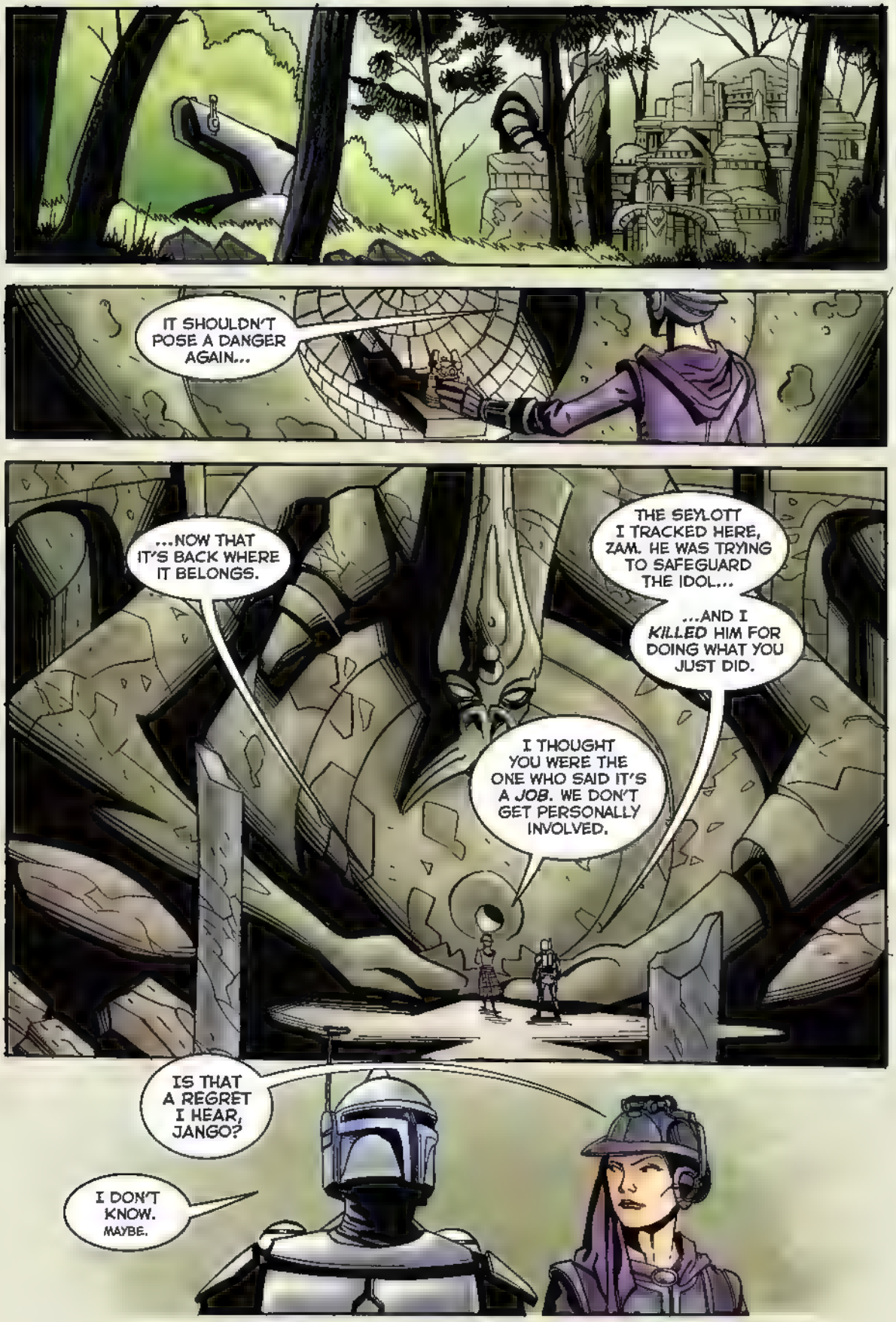
UT
THOK

GHAAAH!
NNNNHHH
...IF IT FALLS...
NO...
...ALL WILL BE LOST...

NNF
NOTHING'S GOING TO BE LOST.
ZAM!
ZAM?
YOU KNOW, JANGO, YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING ABOUT MY SHAPE-CHANGING.
ANY COMPLAINTS NOW?
OF COURSE, IT'S STILL GOING TO EXPLODE.
THERE IS YET HOPE...

...IF YOU BRING THE IDOL TO ME.
DO WE TRUST A JEDI?
IF WE HAVE ANOTHER OPTION I HAVEN'T HEARD IT.
WHAT CAN YOU DO? ESPECIALLY IN *YOUR* STATE?
I AM YARAEL POOF... OF THE JEDI COUNCIL.
I AM ADEPT IN THE WAYS OF THE FORCE, AND THE IDOL...
...THE IDOL IS A VESSEL FOR THE FORCE.
MEANING WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING YOU CAN DEFUSE IT?
IT IS POSSIBLE TO USE THE FORCE TO...
...BIND TOGETHER...
...THE IDOL'S ENERGIES ONCE AGAIN...
...IT'S POSSIBLE...

HE SAVED CORUSCANT.
AT THE PRICE OF HIS OWN LIFE.

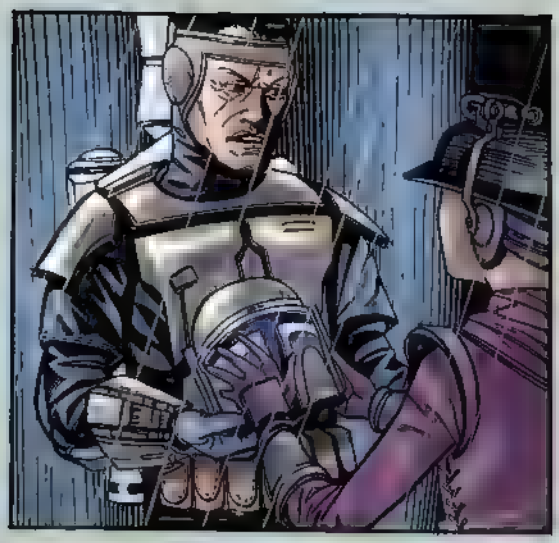

IT SHOULDN'T POSE A DANGER AGAIN...
...NOW THAT IT'S BACK WHERE IT BELONGS.
THE SEYLOTT I TRACKED HERE, ZAM. HE WAS TRYING TO SAFEGUARD THE IDOL...
...AND I *KILLED* HIM FOR DOING WHAT YOU JUST DID.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID IT'S A *JOB*. WE DON'T GET PERSONALLY INVOLVED.
IS THAT A REGRET I HEAR, JANGO?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE.

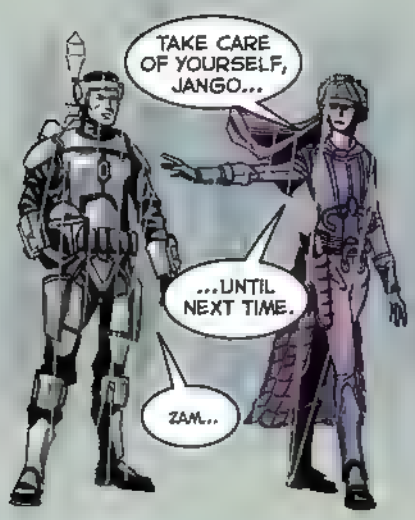
...WE HAVE COMPANY.
EASY... IF THEY WERE GOING TO ATTACK US, THEY'D HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.
YOU DIDN'T KILL ONE OF THEM.
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT.
THAT WOULD BE A FIRST.

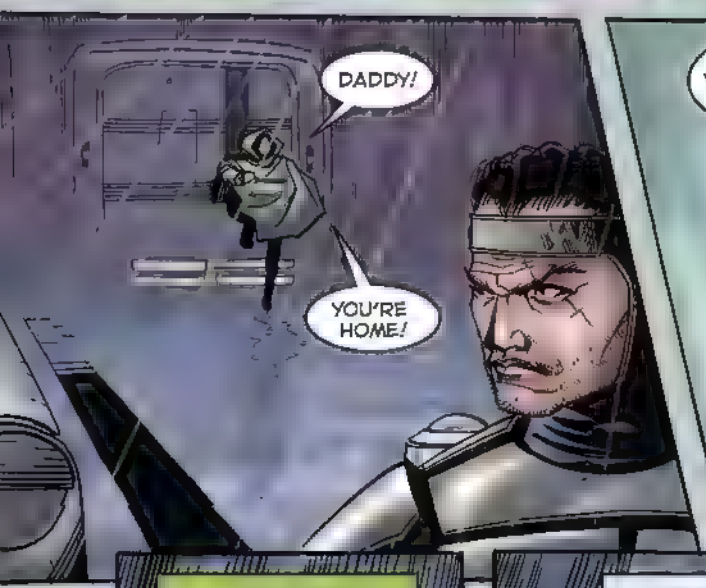
STILL CONFIDENT?

You have brought back that which is ours
The infant has returned to the mother's womb, where it will remain. Where it will be safe.
We thank you.
WE ONLY DID WHAT WAS RIGHT. THE INFANT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY.
WE'RE SORRY FOR ANY GRIEF YOU HAVE SUFFERED.
We are not unaccustomed to grief. We are a dying people
Soon we will be gone.
But now our secrets can die with us.
Go in peace.
But do not return

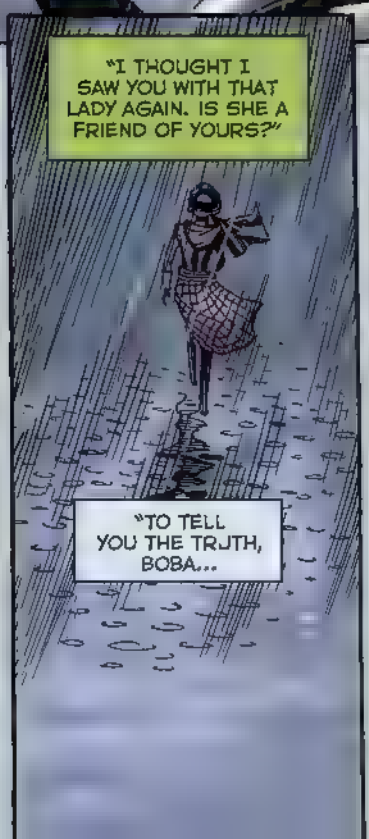
"SO TELL ME, JANGO..."
...HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE DONE SOMETHING FOR THE RIGHT REASON, RATHER THAN JUST THE PROFITABLE ONE.
LIKE I'D BETTER GO FIND SOME PAYING WORK.
PLEASE. THERE'S A PART OF YOU THAT'S NOT HALF SO COLD AS YOU'D HAVE PEOPLE BELIEVE.
I KNOW THERE'S A MAN UNDER THE MASK.
BUT, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WALK AWAY FROM THIS EMPTY-HANDED...
THERE.



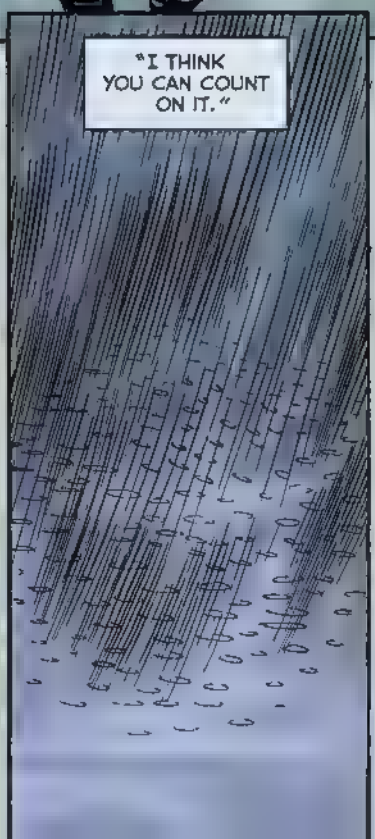

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, JANGO...
...UNTIL NEXT TIME.
ZAM...


DADDY!
YOU'RE HOME!

AND VERY GLAD TO BE HERE.
MISS ME?
ALWAYS!


"I THOUGHT I SAW YOU WITH THAT LADY AGAIN. IS SHE A FRIEND OF YOURS?"
"TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, BOBA...

"...I'M STILL NOT SURE."
"WILL YOU EVER SEE HER AGAIN?"


"I THINK YOU CAN COUNT ON IT."

HE WAS AMONG THE BEST OF US...

...AND WE ARE ALL DIMINISHED BY HIS LOSS.

MASTER YARAEL POOF WAS THE EPITOME OF WHAT ALL JEDI STRIVE TO BE. SO WE GATHER HERE WITHIN THE TEMPLE TO MOURN HIS PASSING, BUT MORE THAN THAT, TO HONOR HIS LIFE.

MASTER POOF SACRIFICED HIMSELF NOT ONLY TO PRESERVE BILLIONS OF LIVES...

...BUT SO THAT THE REPUBLIC ITSELF WOULD LIVE ON.

I CAN THINK OF NO MORE FITTING TRIBUTE THAN THIS:

HE GLADLY GAVE HIS LIFE FOR A CAUSE HE BELIEVED IN.

I'VE SEEN TOO MANY OF THESE, MASTER.

IS THIS WHAT AWAITS ME?

THE PYRE IS THE END FOR WHICH ALL TRUE JEDI ARE DESTINED, ANAKIN SKYWALKER.

YES, THE DEATH OF ANY OF US IS A SAD THING. BUT MASTER POOF IS ONE WITH THE FORCE NOW.

I UNDERSTAND, MASTER WINDU.

THE COUNCIL IS CERTAIN THE DANGER HAS PASSED, MASTER WINDU?

WE ARE, OBI-WAN KENOBI. MASTER POOF'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED, ALONG WITH THOSE OF GENERAL KHORDA AND HIS FELLOW CONSPIRATORS ...

...YET THE IDOL ITSELF WAS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

OUR MOST POWERFUL SENSITIVES CONDUCTED A FAR-RANGING SEARCH, BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE OF EVEN THE RIPPLES IN THE FORCE CAUSED BY THE IDOL.

CURIOUSLY, KHORDA AND SOME OF HIS MEN HAD SUFFERED BLASTER WOUNDS. NOT MASTER POOF'S WORK, CERTAINLY.

IT SEEMS APPARENT MASTER POOF TRULY DID SAVE ALL OF CORUSCANT BY PREVENTING THE IDOL'S DETONATION...

BUT SOMEONE ELSE OBVIOUSLY CARRIED IT AWAY TO A PLACE WHERE IT POSES NO THREAT.

WE HAVE NO IDEA OF WHO THAT MIGHT BE...

"...BUT HEROES DO SOMETIMES COME IN THE MOST UNEXPECTED OF GUISES."
END.

The Bounty Hunters: Aurra Sing | illustration by Tim Truman

Approximately twenty-seven years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

script and art by Tim Truman

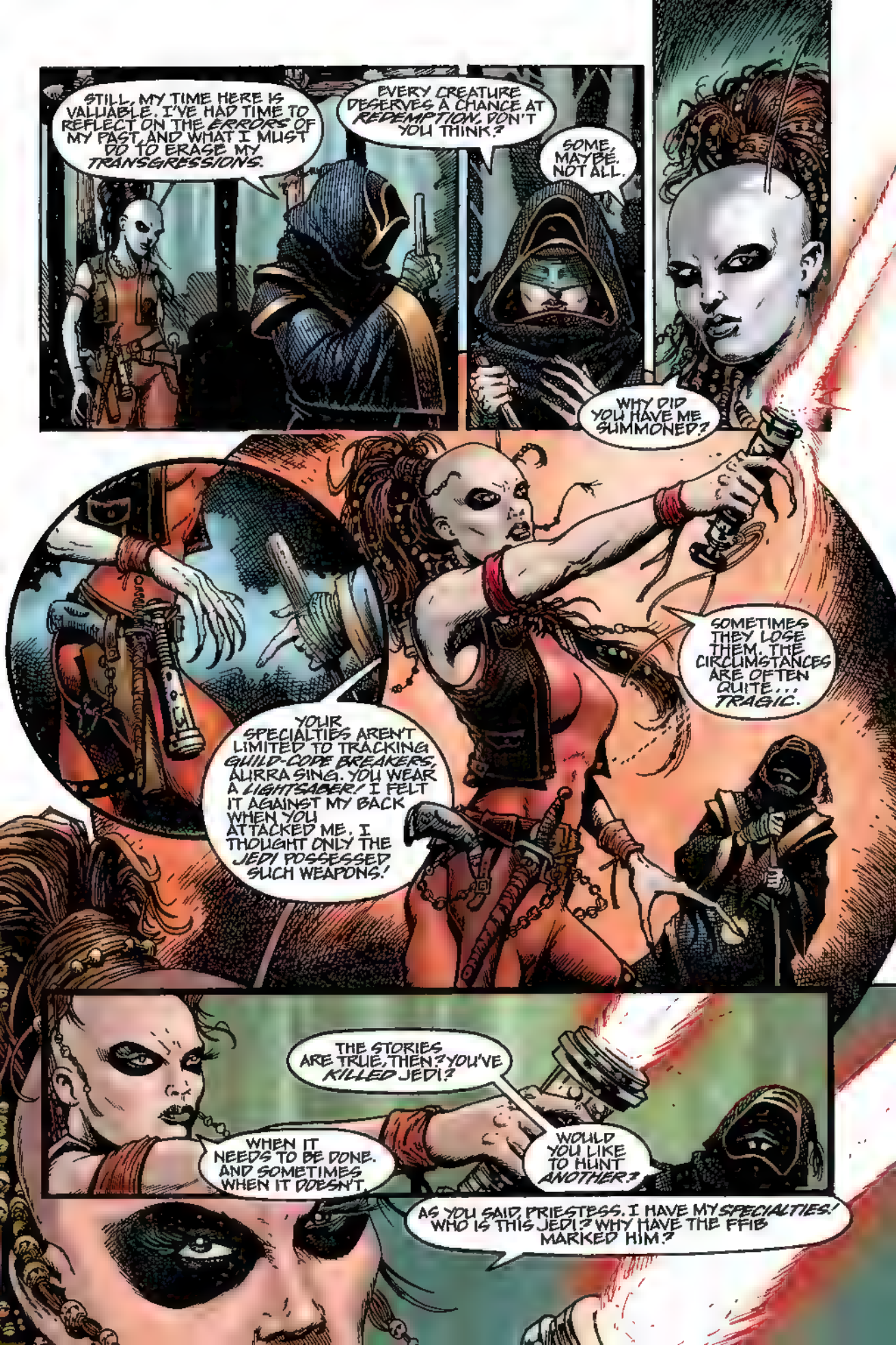
color rendering by Dave McCaig

letters by Michael Taylor

THE SECOND MOON OF THE PLANET ENDOR. ALSO CALLED THE "FOREST MOON." SOMETIMES EVEN "ENDOR." THAT IS, WHEN IT'S CALLED ANYTHING.
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE, BOUNTY HUNTER.
PLEASE-- SHOW YOURSELF.
JUST AN INSIGNIFICANT GREEN ROCK ORBITING A LIFELESS, VAPOROUS GIANT. LOST... SMALL...
...A CHILD CIRCLING A DEAD PARENT.
WHY DID WE HAVE TO MEET HERE?
YOU'RE GOOD--
--FOR A PRIESTESS.
AND A BLIND PRIESTESS, AT THAT!

I AM A DAUGHTER OF THE FFIB. THE ORDER HAS TAUGHT ME THAT THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR ONE TO OBTAIN VISION.
I SEE AND FEEL THINGS THAT OTHERS CAN'T.
TRULY?
CAN YOU SEE YOUR FUTURE?
OR FEEL MY BLADE ON YOUR THROAT?
PLEASE, AURRA SING! DON'T HARM ME!
WE ASKED THE BOUNTY HUNTERS' GUILD TO CONTACT YOU. EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE REFUSED TO JOIN THEM, WE KNEW THAT GUILDMASTER CRADOSSK WOULD KNOW HOW TO FIND YOU!
THAT OLD TRANDOSHAN? ONLY WHEN I ALLOW HIM TO.
I'VE DONE SOME JOBS FOR HIM.
HA! YOU'RE NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER! MAYBE THIS ISN'T A GUILD TRAP!
BELIEVE ME! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THE FFIB.

SOMETIMES A HUNTER BREAKS GUILD LAW. SOMEBODY HAS TO GO AFTER HIM. HAS TO BE AN *INDEPENDENT* TRACKER. SOMEONE *NOT* TIED TO GUILD FACTIONS.
ME.
I BRING BACK THE MARK... *USUALLY.*
THEN, SOMETIMES YOU FAIL?
NO. SOMETIMES I KILL THEM.
WHY ARE WE HERE? WORTHLESS LITTLE MOON. IT ISN'T EVEN ON THE CHARTS.
THIS MEETING *MUST* BE KEPT SECRET, AURRA SING. BECAUSE ENDOR IS THE FFIB'S MOST REMOTE MISSION, I WAS CHOSEN TO DELIVER THE HIGH ELDERS' REQUEST.
I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE FOR A SHORT TIME, AND I DON'T *EXPECT* TO STAY MUCH LONGER. THE HIGH ELDERS THINK THAT THE BEINGS HERE CAN BE BROUGHT INTO THE LIGHT OF OUR ORDER. SO FAR, NONE HAVE COME.
I DON'T THINK THAT ANY *WILL!*

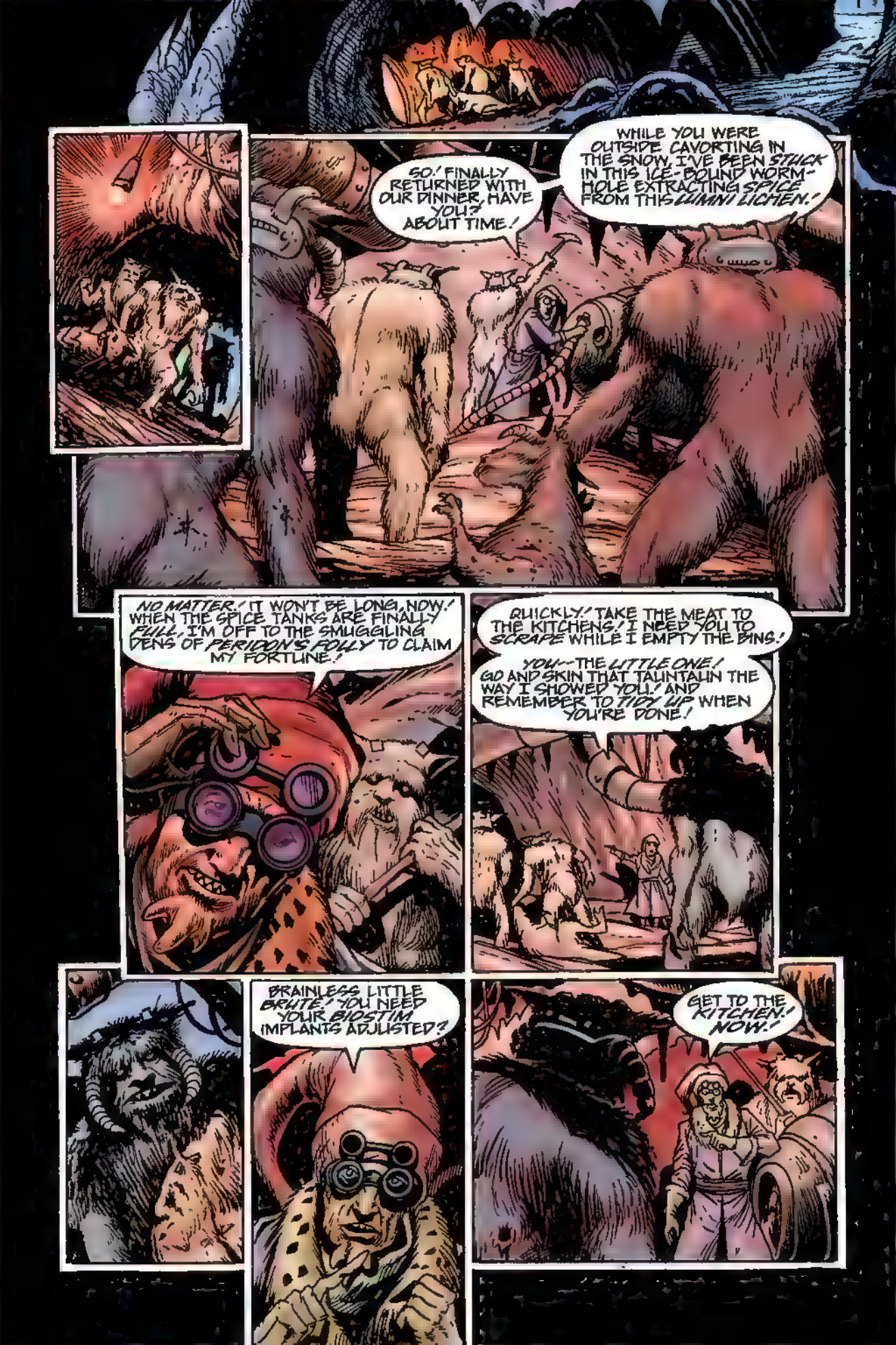

STILL, MY TIME HERE IS VALUABLE. I'VE HAD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE *ERRORS* OF MY PAST, AND WHAT I MUST DO TO ERASE MY *TRANSGRESSIONS*.
EVERY CREATURE DESERVES A CHANCE AT *REDEMPTION*, DON'T YOU THINK?
SOME, MAYBE. NOT ALL.
WHY DID YOU HAVE ME SUMMONED?
SOMETIMES THEY LOSE THEM. THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE OFTEN QUITE... *TRAGIC*.
YOUR SPECIALTIES AREN'T LIMITED TO TRACKING *GUILD-CODE BREAKERS*, ALIRRA SING. YOU WEAR A *LIGHTSABER*! I FELT IT AGAINST MY BACK WHEN YOU ATTACKED ME. I THOUGHT ONLY THE *JEDI* POSSESSED SUCH WEAPONS!
THE STORIES ARE TRUE, THEN? YOU'VE *KILLED* JEDI?
WHEN IT NEEDS TO BE DONE. AND SOMETIMES WHEN IT *DOESN'T*.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HUNT *ANOTHER*?
AS YOU SAID PRIESTESS. I HAVE MY *SPECIALTIES*! WHO IS THIS JEDI? WHY HAVE THE FFIB MARKED HIM?

YOU'VE HEARD OF REESS KAIRN?
A TWI'LEK PIRATE. PROWLS THE GAMOR RUN. WHAT ABOUT HIM?
"NOT LONG AGO, KAIRN RAIDED OUR HOMEWORLD, CORAHN, AND LOOTED A TEMPLE, STEALING MANY PRICELESS ARTIFACTS AND DESTROYING IRREPLACEABLE TEXTS!
"HOWEVER, THESE WERE NOT THE WORST OF KAIRN'S MISDEEDS AGAINST THE FFIB.'
"ON THE VERY STEPS OF OUR GREAT TEMPLE, HE MURDERED FOUR PRIESTS IN COLD BLOOD!'"
YOUR SECT IS AN AUTOCRACY. YOU HAVE YOUR OWN SECURITY FORCE. SEND THEM.
THEY DON'T HAVE THE SKILL! KAIRN WAS NOT ALWAYS A PIRATE, YOU SEE...
"...FOR ONCE, HE WAS A JEDI KNIGHT!

"ONCE, A LONG TIME AGO, THE JEDI NAMED KAIRN RETURNED TO RYLOTH TO FIND THE FEMALE WHO WAS HIS MATE IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER.'
"CONSUMED BY JEALOUSY AND ANGER, HE KILLED THEM BOTH.
"FEARING THE JEDI JUSTICE WHICH WAS SURE TO COME, HE STOLE A CRUISER AND FLED TO THE OUTER RIM.'
"KAIRN'S LIFE WAS SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR... HIS PASSIONS HAD OPENED THE DOORS TO THE DARK SIDE.'
"FEEDING HIS RAGE ON POTENT RYLL SPICE, HE GATHERED A CREW AND BECAME A PIRATE.' FOR YEARS HE PREYED UPON THE TRADE SHIPS AND MINES OF THE MIDDLE RIM.'
"KAIRN'S LAST KNOWN FORAY WAS HIS ATTACK ON OUR TEMPLE.' SOON AFTER, HE DISBANDED HIS CREW AND WENT INTO HIDING.' PERHAPS HE KNEW THAT THE FFIB WOULD NOT FORGET OR FORGIVE HIS VIOLATIONS.'
"TO CONFUSE HIS TRAIL, HE BRIBED TWO OF HIS CREWMEN INTO ASSUMING HIS IDENTITY.' THESE MEN ARE SHI'IDO TWINS-- BROTHERS WHOSE RARE SPECIES IS GIFTED WITH THE ABILITY TO SIMULATE THE APPEARANCE OF OTHERS.
"KAIRN VOWED TO USE HIS PLUNDER TO FEED THEIR FAMILIES FOREVER.' HOWEVER, IF ONE OF THEM BETRAYED HIS SECRET, HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD FEED THEIR LOVED ONES TO WILD MONMOKS.'
"THE BARGAIN WAS SEALED.' THE PIRATES FLED, EACH TO A DIFFERENT WORLD.'"

TO REACH KAIRN YOU MIGHT HAVE TO KILL TWO OTHER BEINGS, AURRA SING. YOU REALIZE THIS?
A PITY.
ANY CLUES WHERE THEY WENT?
UNKNOWN TO REESS, HIS CABIN SERVANT STOLE A LOOK AT THE VILLAIN'S CHARTS, KNOWING SOMEONE WOULD PAY WELL FOR SUCH KNOWLEDGE.
WAS THIS INFORMANT REWARDED?
YES-- THE FFIB INQUISITORS SAW TO THAT. HE WAS COMPENSATED AS ONLY A PIRATE CAN BE. POOR CREATURE.
WITHIN THIS DATAPAD ARE THE LOCATIONS OF THREE PLANETS, EACH ONE REPRESENTING ONE OF THE STATES OF MATTER... LIQUID, FLAME, AND SKY. REESS KAIRN IS ON ONE OF THESE WORLDS!
WILL YOU APPREHEND HIM FOR US, AURRA SING?
I NEVER PROMISE TO APPREHEND ANYONE, PRIESTESS. I ONLY GUARANTEE ONE THING. THAT I CAN KILL HIM.
LIVE CAPTURE IS HARDER. MORE OVERHEAD. IT'LL COST YOU.
I'LL MENTION IT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.
REMEMBER, BOUNTY HUNTER...
"THE SHI'IDO ARE MASTER MIMICS!
"HOWEVER, THERE IS AT LEAST ONE THING THEY CANNOT DUPLICATE...

HOTH (LIQUID)
"...REEGS'S EYES!"
"THE RED EYES OF A TWI'LEK SPICE ADDICT CAN NEVER BE HIDDEN, AURRA SING."
AT LEAST, IT WAS ONCE. SIXTH WORLD OF THE HOTH SYSTEM. SOMETIMES CALLED THE "ICE PLANET."
SURE. OBVIOUSLY.
ANOTHER REALLY NICE PLACE TO VISIT.


SO! FINALLY RETURNED WITH OUR DINNER, HAVE YOU? ABOUT TIME!
WHILE YOU WERE OUTSIDE CAVORTING IN THE SNOW, I'VE BEEN STUCK IN THIS ICE-BOUND WORM-HOLE EXTRACTING SPICE FROM THIS LUMINI LICHEN!
NO MATTER! IT WON'T BE LONG, NOW! WHEN THE SPICE TANKS ARE FINALLY FULL, I'M OFF TO THE SMUGGLING DENS OF PERIDON'S FOLLY TO CLAIM MY FORTUNE!
QUICKLY! TAKE THE MEAT TO THE KITCHENS! I NEED YOU TO SCRAPE WHILE I EMPTY THE BINS!
YOU--THE LITTLE ONE! GO AND SKIN THAT TAUNTAUN THE WAY I SHOWED YOU! AND REMEMBER TO TIDY UP WHEN YOU'RE DONE!
BRAINLESS LITTLE BRUTE! YOU NEED YOUR BIOSTIM IMPLANTS ADJUSTED?
GET TO THE KITCHEN! NOW!

SORRY, I DON'T DO DISHES...
...AND NO ONE LIKES MY COOKING!
P-CHOW!
P-CHOW!
C-CRRAAASHH!
AURRA SING!?!
YOU WON'T TAKE ME ALIVE, BOUNTY HUNTER!
CHOOM!
CHOOM!

P-CHOW!
ZIP!
ZIP!
ZIP!
FAIR ENOUGH!
SAVES THE FFIB A LOT OF MONEY!
GRRAARRR
P-CHOW!
P-CHOW!
P-CHOW!

HHRRRROOOOONNGGKK!
RHEN-ORM BIOCOMPUTER IN MY HEAD BUZZING! CALLS THIS THING A DRAGON SLUG!
CH-CHOMP!
AAEEEIRREEEEEE
THE CAVE-IN I CAUSED AWAKENED IT!

ALMOST THERE ...I CAN SEE DAYLIGHT...
SSSSSSSSS
BNOOOM!
ALL RIGHT. LET'S GET A LOOK.
ONE OF THE SHI'IDO.
T FIGURES.
TWO TO GO.

TATOOINE (FLAME)
TATOO SYSTEM, THE OUTER RIM, TOWNSHIP OF MOS ESPA.
I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
HATED IT THEN. LOATHE IT NOW.
NOT THAT I'M BELLYACHING. WORK'S WORK.
AND I LIKE MY JOB.
KKKOWW!

IT'S THE LAST SHI'IDO. GOOD ENOUGH.
NOW ONLY KAIRN IS LEFT.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, KID?
W-W-WLIHER!
THIS IS A TOUGH WORLD, WLIHER...
...GET USED TO IT.

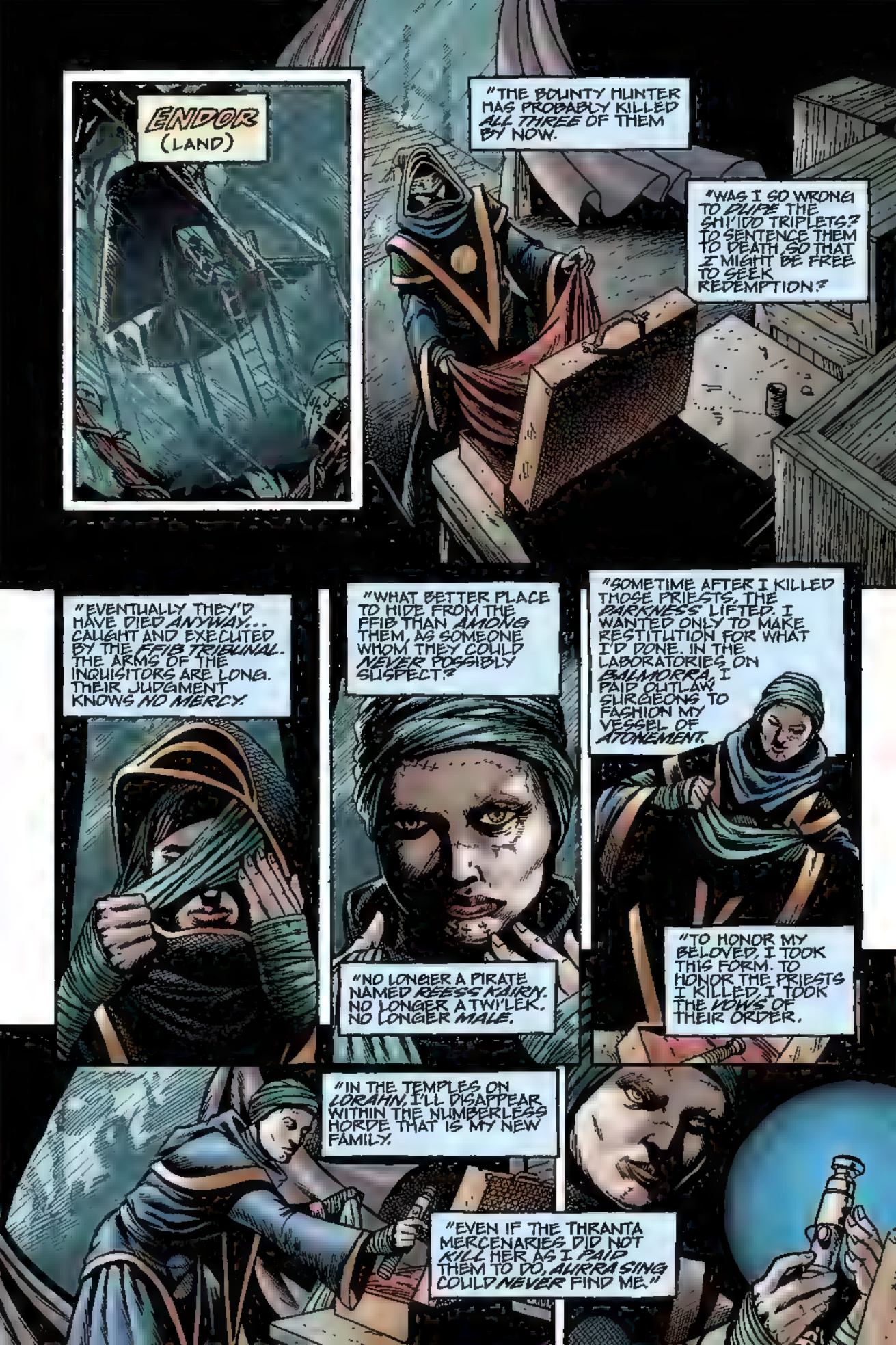
BESPIN (SKY)
LAST STOP.
YEAH! THAT'S IT! MORE OF THAT KIND OF STUFF!
THE CROWDS ON CORUSCANT WILL LOVE YOU GUYS!
WE'LL PUT A BIG TOUR TOGETHER. GIVE THE INVESTORS A REALLY NICE PACKAGE, YOU KNOW?
I PROMISE YOU GUYS, WE'LL TAKE THIS GALAXY BY STORM!
KR-RAAK!

CHOOM!
CHOOM!
CHOOM!
NO!!
AIR BROTHERS, HEAR ME!
THAT WOMAN ON THE AIRHOOK WANTS TO KILL ME!
HELP ME!

WHAT'S THIS?
MORE THIRANTA RIDERS, ARMED TO THE TEETH AND PAINTED FOR WAR.
THEY WERE WAITING!
CHOOM!
CHOOM
SOMEONE TOLD THEM I WAS COMING!
WHUNK!
WAMP!

ASK ANY NON-RESIDENT ON BESPIN, THEY'LL TELL YOU THE SAME THING.
"AIRHOOK OR THRANTA?"
MOST WILL PICK THE MACHINE.
OF COURSE, AIRHOOKS HAVE THEIR DRAWBACKS.
WHOOM!
HIGHLY UNSTABLE FUEL CELLS, FOR ONE.
GAME OVER.

TIME TO COLLECT THE PIECES.
LET'S GET A LOOK AT YOU. JUST TO BE SURE.
WHAT?
THIRD SHI'IDO?
LIQUID... FLAME... SKY...
TIME EFIB LEFT ONE OUT.


ENDOR (LAND)
"THE BOUNTY HUNTER HAS PROBABLY KILLED ALL THREE OF THEM BY NOW.
"WAS I SO WRONG TO DUPE THE SHI'IDO TRIPLETS? TO SENTENCE THEM TO DEATH, SO THAT I MIGHT BE FREE TO SEEK REDEMPTION?
"EVENTUALLY THEY'D HAVE DIED ANYWAY... CAUGHT AND EXECUTED BY THE FFIB TRIBUNAL. THE ARMS OF THE INQUISITORS ARE LONG. THEIR JUDGMENT KNOWS NO MERCY.
"WHAT BETTER PLACE TO HIDE FROM THE FFIB THAN AMONG THEM, AS SOMEONE WHOM THEY COULD NEVER POSSIBLY SUSPECT?
"SOMETIME AFTER I KILLED THOSE PRIESTS, THE DARKNESS LIFTED. I WANTED ONLY TO MAKE RESTITUTION FOR WHAT I'D DONE. IN THE LABORATORIES ON BALMORRA, I PAID OUTLAW SURGEONS TO FASHION MY VESSEL OF ATONEMENT.
"NO LONGER A PIRATE NAMED RSESS KAIRY. NO LONGER A TWI'LEK. NO LONGER MALE.
"TO HONOR MY BELOVED, I TOOK THIS FORM. TO HONOR THE PRIESTS I KILLED, I TOOK THE VOWS OF THEIR ORDER.
"IN THE TEMPLES ON LORAHN, I'LL DISAPPEAR WITHIN THE NUMBERLESS HORDE. THAT IS MY NEW FAMILY.
"EVEN IF THE THRANTA MERCENARIES DID NOT KILL HER AS I PAID THEM TO DO, ALIRRA SING COULD NEVER FIND ME."

"I WON'T PRETEND THAT THE JEDI KNIGHTS COULD EVER FORGIVE ME. SO I SHALL SEEK PENITENCE IN THE FFIB.
"SOON, THE SHIP WILL BE HERE.
KRMMM
"I'LL BE BOUND FOR A NEW LIFE.
"A LIFE OF HOPE. REDEMPTION, PEACE, TRUTH...
"...AND JUSTICE."
P-CHOW!
THE END

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

"Poison Moon"

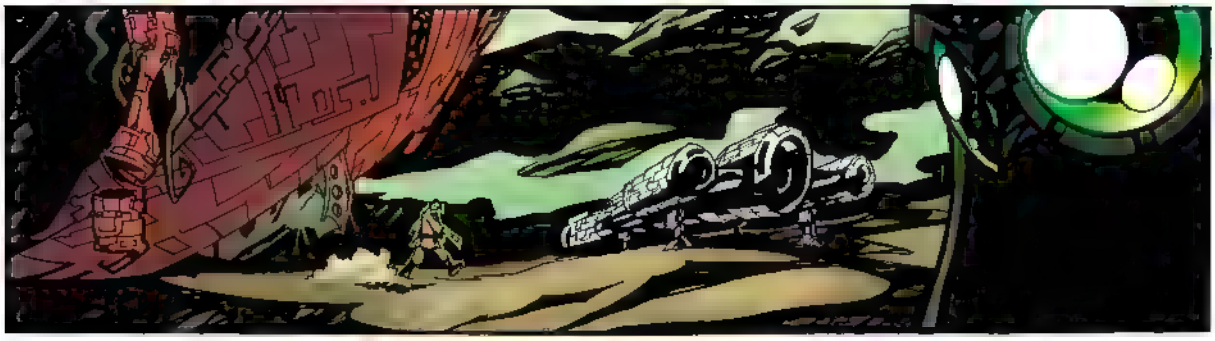
script by Michael Carriglitto

art by Adrian Sibar

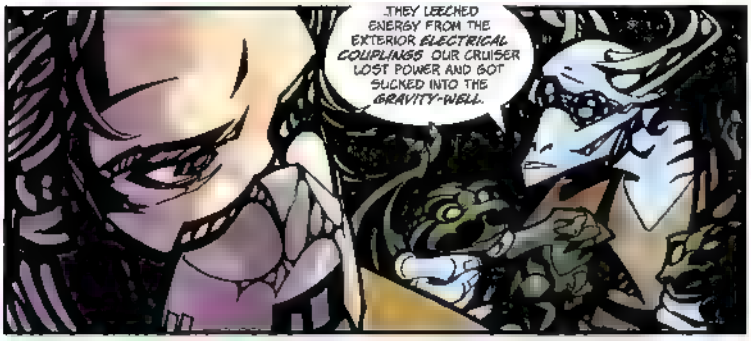
colors by Dan Jackson

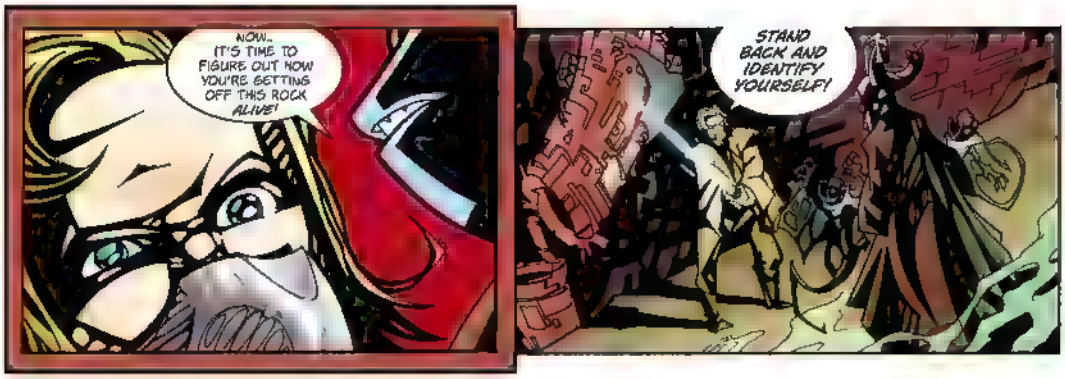
STAR WARS
Poison Moon
$KSHHTK$
This is a priority distress call transmitting coordinates
$KSHHTK$
$KSHHTK$
Republic cruiser Radiant IX requesting immediate assistance at sector 759 Hutin system
$KSHHTK$
$KSHHTK$
This is a priority distress call transmitting coordinates
$KSHHTK$
NOW WE KNOW WHY THERE WAS NO RESPONSE TO OUR HAILS.
YES. AND THIS POOR SOUL WAS KILLED BY SOMETHING OTHER THAN THE CRASH. LET'S MOVE QUICKLY THERE MAY BE SURVIVORS.
MORE DEAD, MASTER KENOBI.
AND THAT SMELL!
OZONE
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
IT'S COMING FROM—
WAIT, ANAKIN!
KRAKOOM!

STOP!
KZZT!
WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?
I- I THOUGHT YOU WERE HIM. HE. HE KILLED THEM ALL!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE COMES BACK!
WHO ? HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
I'M ALYSUN CELZ, THE PILOT OF THIS VESSEL. WE WERE TRANSPORTING ET REX, A DARK JEDI, BACK TO CORUSCANT WHEN HE ESCAPED.
HE USED LIGHTNING FROM HIS HANDS TO KILL MY CREW. WE MUST GET TO YOUR SHIP AT ONCE!
ANAKIN, STAY ALERT AND DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.
I'LL BE BACK MOMENTARILY



MYNOCKS! WELL, THAT EXPLAINS THE CRASH
YESSS...


THEY LEECHED ENERGY FROM THE EXTERIOR ELECTRICAL COUPLINGS OUR CRUISER LOST POWER AND GOT SUCKED INTO THE GRAVITY-WELL.


NOW.. IT'S TIME TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU'RE GETTING OFF THIS ROCK ALIVE!
STAND BACK AND IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

RELAX, FELLOW JEDI KNIGHT. WOULD I REALLY USE THESE TO KILL YOU?
GRX!
ARE YOU ET REX, THE JEDI TO BE JUDGED BEFORE THE COUNCIL? DID YOU KILL THIS SHIP'S CREW?
I WAS TO BE JUDGED, BUT I HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE! I'VE BEEN FRAMED!
WHEN SHE FELL TO THE DARK SIDE, I WOULDN'T FOLLOW HER. I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD END UP LIKE THIS!
SHE...? YOU MEAN..
ALYSUN, YES...
"...SHE'S THE KILLER."
I DON'T THINK YOUR FRIEND IS COMING BACK. WE NEED TO GET TO YOUR SHIP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
WE CANNOT LEAVE UNTIL WE ARE CERTAIN IT'S SAFE.
HMM.. I SEE.
THE PIRATES THAT VISIT HOTH CALL THIS ASTEROID "POISON MOON," BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE FROM THE SURFACE.
ISN'T IT FUNNY HOW APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING, LITTLE PADAWAN?!
KZZZZZT
AAAAAHHHHH!

KZZZT!
NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR SHIP, PADAWAN, I DON'T NEED YOU!
AAAAAHHH!
STOP!
NOOO!
ALYSUN... DON'T...
SCREEEEEEEE
UNH!

SWEETHEART! I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING!
SCRAWEEEE
EEE!
Yowtch!
LATER...
WE WERE FRIENDS BEFORE THE DARK SIDE SEDUCED HER.
ALYSUN MADE IT LOOK LIKE I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BLOOD ON HER HANDS.
THE COUNCIL IS NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.
"OH, I THINK THEY WILL, ANAKIN.
"A JEDI MUST UNDERSTAND THINGS ARE OFTEN NOT AS THEY APPEAR."
the end

Starfighter--Crossbones | illustration by J. H. Williams, Mick Gray, and Jeromy Cox

Approximately twenty-four years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

script by Haden Blackman

pencils by Ramon Bachs

inks by Raul Fernandez

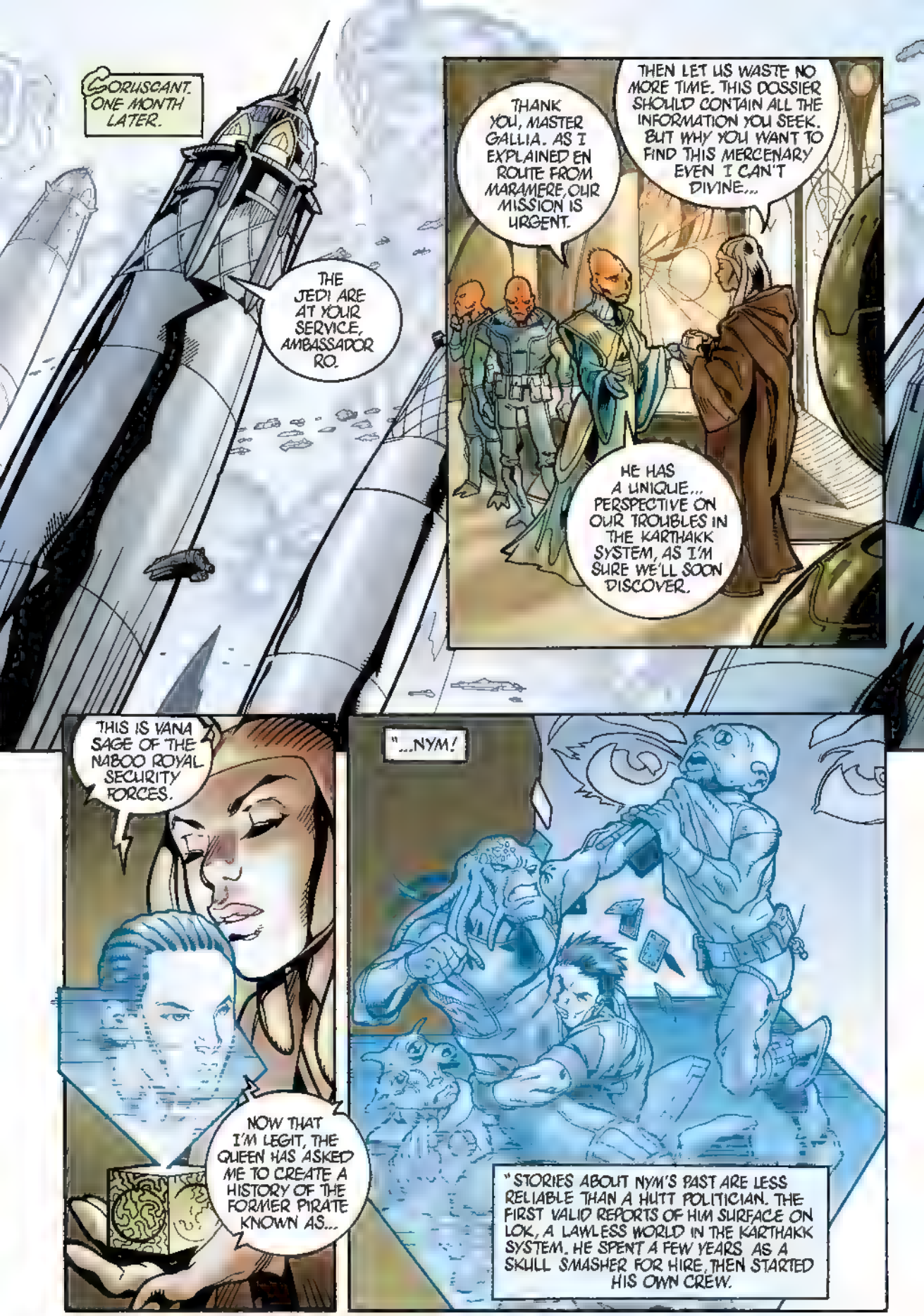
colors by Brad Anderson

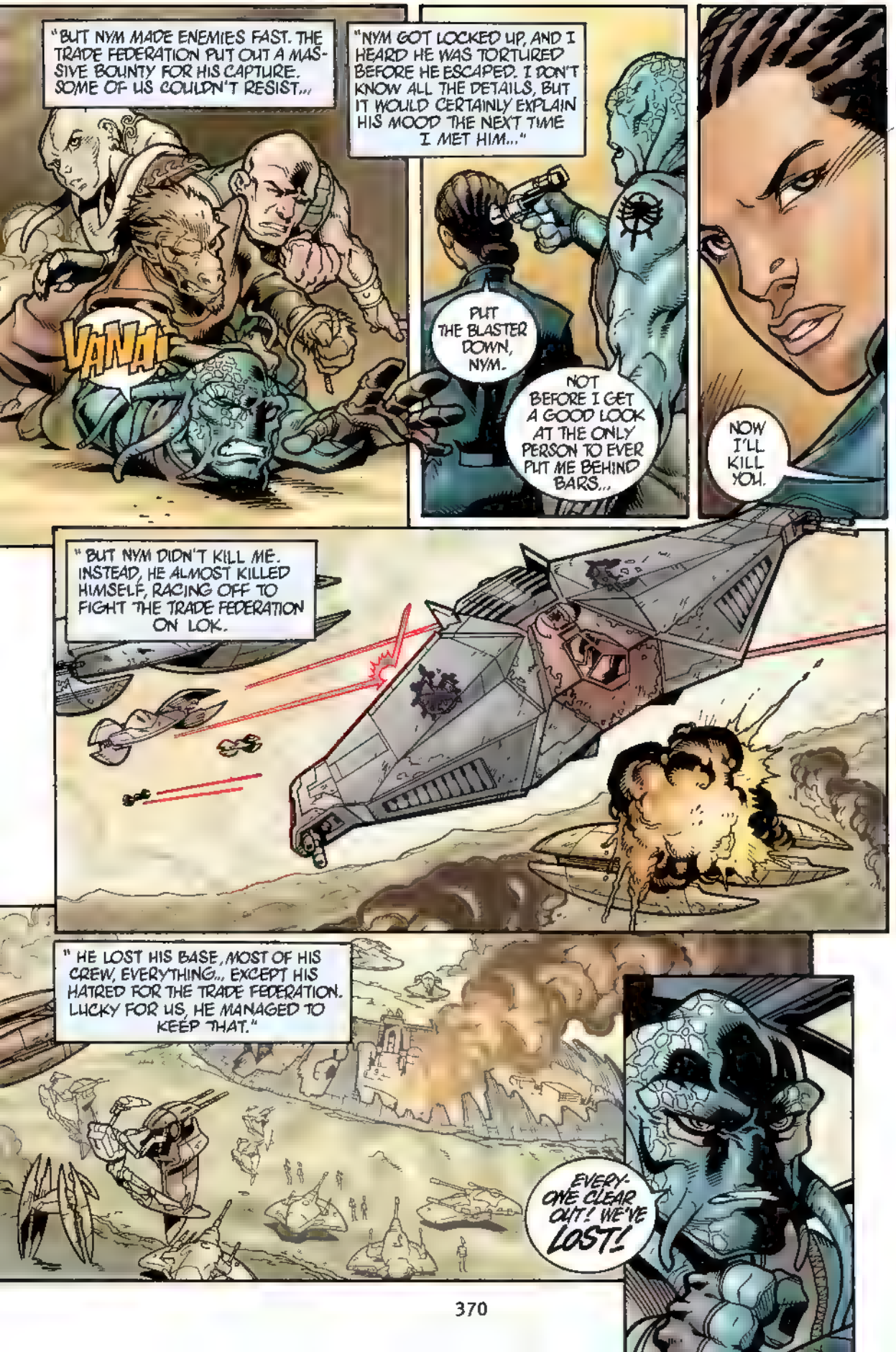
letters by Steve Dutro

THE PLANET MARAMERE IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM, SIX YEARS AFTER THE BATTLE OF NABOO.
CLAIMING THIS WORLD WAS AN INSPIRATION, YOUR LORDSHIP.
MMM. YES, RULIK. I SUPPOSE. MARAMERE DOES HAVE UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND A HARD-WORKING LOCAL POPULACE...
WELL, GUNRAY IS CERTAINLY PLEASED. I HEAR HE DELIVERED YOU A RAITH SIENAR ORIGINAL PROTOTYPE.
YES. IT'S IN THE HOLD.
GOOD. WE'LL HAVE THE WORKERS INSTALL IT IN YOUR STARSHIP AS SOON AS WE REACH POINT MODIE.
I HOPE IT WILL RELIEVE THIS BOREDOM. THE FISH FOLK ARE TOO COMPLACENT.

THERE HASN'T EVEN BEEN A CRIME IN OVER THREE STANDARD YEARS.
MAYBE I'LL JUST GIVE YOU THE PLANET!
LORD TOAT!
BEOU!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
PROTECT THE CARGO! AND SHOOT ANYTHING THAT'S NOT NEIMOIDIAN!
Wha?!

PIRATES!
SOL SIXXA?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD..
I'VE DIED SO MANY TIMES, EVEN MY OWN PEOPLE THINK I'M A GHOST. YOU WON'T BE SO LUCKY, LITTLE LARVA.
TAKE ANYTHING! TAKE IT ALL!
THAT'S THE PLAN.
TRANSFER THE CARGO AND THROW THE LEECHES OVERBOARD.
WHAT ABOUT THE BOAT?
SEND IT TO THE BOTTOM.


CORUSCANT. ONE MONTH LATER.
THE JEDI ARE AT YOUR SERVICE, AMBASSADOR RO.
THANK YOU, MASTER GALLIA. AS I EXPLAINED EN ROUTE FROM MARAMERE, OUR MISSION IS URGENT.
THEN LET US WASTE NO MORE TIME. THIS DOSSIER SHOULD CONTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION YOU SEEK. BUT WHY YOU WANT TO FIND THIS MERCENARY EVEN I CAN'T DIVINE...
HE HAS A UNIQUE... PERSPECTIVE ON OUR TROUBLES IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM, AS I'M SURE WE'LL SOON DISCOVER.
THIS IS VANA SAGE OF THE NABOO ROYAL SECURITY FORCES.
NOW THAT I'M LEGIT, THE QUEEN HAS ASKED ME TO CREATE A HISTORY OF THE FORMER PIRATE KNOWN AS...
"...NYM!
"STORIES ABOUT NYM'S PAST ARE LESS RELIABLE THAN A HUTT POLITICIAN. THE FIRST VALID REPORTS OF HIM SURFACE ON LOK, A LAWLESS WORLD IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM. HE SPENT A FEW YEARS AS A SKULL SMASHER FOR HIRE, THEN STARTED HIS OWN CREW.


"BUT NYM MADE ENEMIES FAST. THE TRADE FEDERATION PUT OUT A MASSIVE BOUNTY FOR HIS CAPTURE. SOME OF US COULDN'T RESIST...
VANA!
"NYM GOT LOCKED UP, AND I HEARD HE WAS TORTURED BEFORE HE ESCAPED. I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS, BUT IT WOULD CERTAINLY EXPLAIN HIS MOOD THE NEXT TIME I MET HIM..."
PUT THE BLASTER DOWN, NYM.
NOT BEFORE I GET A GOOD LOOK AT THE ONLY PERSON TO EVER PUT ME BEHIND BARS...
NOW I'LL KILL YOU.
"BUT NYM DIDN'T KILL ME. INSTEAD, HE ALMOST KILLED HIMSELF, RACING OFF TO FIGHT THE TRADE FEDERATION ON LOK.
"HE LOST HIS BASE, MOST OF HIS CREW, EVERYTHING... EXCEPT HIS HATRED FOR THE TRADE FEDERATION. LUCKY FOR US, HE MANAGED TO KEEP THAT."
EVERYONE CLEAR OUT! WE'VE LOST!

"NYM THREW IN WITH ME AND RHYS DALLOWS FROM THE RSF.* WE FOUGHT THE TRADE FEDERATION ON EOS...
*ROYAL SECURITY FORCES
"...THEN JOINED THE WAR ON NABOO.
"WHILE THE RSF TOOK ON THE TRADE FEDERATION IN SPACE, NYM PROTECTED THE PLANET, AND DIDN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.

"THE SENATE OFFERED HIM A PARDON, THE NABOO AMASSED A SMALL REWARD, AND THE RSF ASKED HIM TO JOIN THEIR RANKS. HE TURNED IT ALL DOWN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LEAVING THIS, NYM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STAYING! COME ON, LIVE DANGEROUSLY!
"...AND PLOTTED A COURSE FOR HOME.
"THE TRADE FEDERATION WAS USING NYM'S BASE AS A STAGING GROUND FOR THEIR RAIDS IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM. WITH NO CREW AND NO CREDITS, NYM COULDN'T TAKE THEM ON. NOT YET.
VANA, THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR ME HERE. I'M HEADIN' INTO BOTHAN SPACE TO LOOK FOR SOME WORK.
I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH.
"ANOTHER EMPTY THREAT."
I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM NYM IN ALMOST SIX YEARS. BUT THERE'VE BEEN SOME STORIES... A BIG ANGRY ALIEN BUSTS UP A CANTINA ON COMMENOR.
A "GREEN MONSTER" IS SPOTTED SELLING WEAPONS ON SULLUST. AND THE MOST RECENT SIGHTING ON...

"...RODIA!"
I FEEL RIDICULOUS.
<YOU SHOULD FEEL HONORED. YOU'RE WEARING CONSECRATED CEREMONIAL ARMOR BLESSED BY THE GRAND PROTECTOR HIMSELF.>
"IF ANYONE FINDS A DUMB PIRATE, TELL HIM THAT HE OWES ME A COMM CALL. VANA SAGE OUT."
IT'S TOO SMALL.
<YOU LOOK FINE.>
<IT'S NEARLY TIME TO EARN YOUR PAY.>
<STAY IN THE CENTER OF THE BATTLE. AND DON'T LOOK AT THE CAM DROIDS. IT'S BAD FORM.>

I'M ON IT. JUST MAKE SURE YOU AND YOUR CREW STICK TO THE SCRIPT, OR I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF.
<THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID LAST BATTLE. NO TIME TO ARGUE, THOUGH...>
"<...THE ENEMY APPROACHES.>"
<FOR THE GLORY OF THE CAIRN CLAN, KILL OUR FOES!>
SHOW-TIME KOLE, JINKINS. YOU MOOKAS STAY HERE AND KEEP YOUR HEADS DOWN.
NO PROBLEM.
<REEVEN CLAN, OUR LAND IS THREATENED! CRUSH THE INVADERS!>
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THEY'RE GOING TO KILL EACH OTHER OVER PROPERTY RIGHTS?!

<THERE IS FAR MORE THAN LAND AT STAKE, AMBASSADOR RO. THIS IS A SACRED RODIAN CLAN WAR.>

<JANNIK THE WHITE LEADS HIS REEVEN CLAN AGAINST EVO THE BLUE AND THE CAIRN CLAN. THE WARRIORS FIGHT FOR STATUS AND HONOR.>

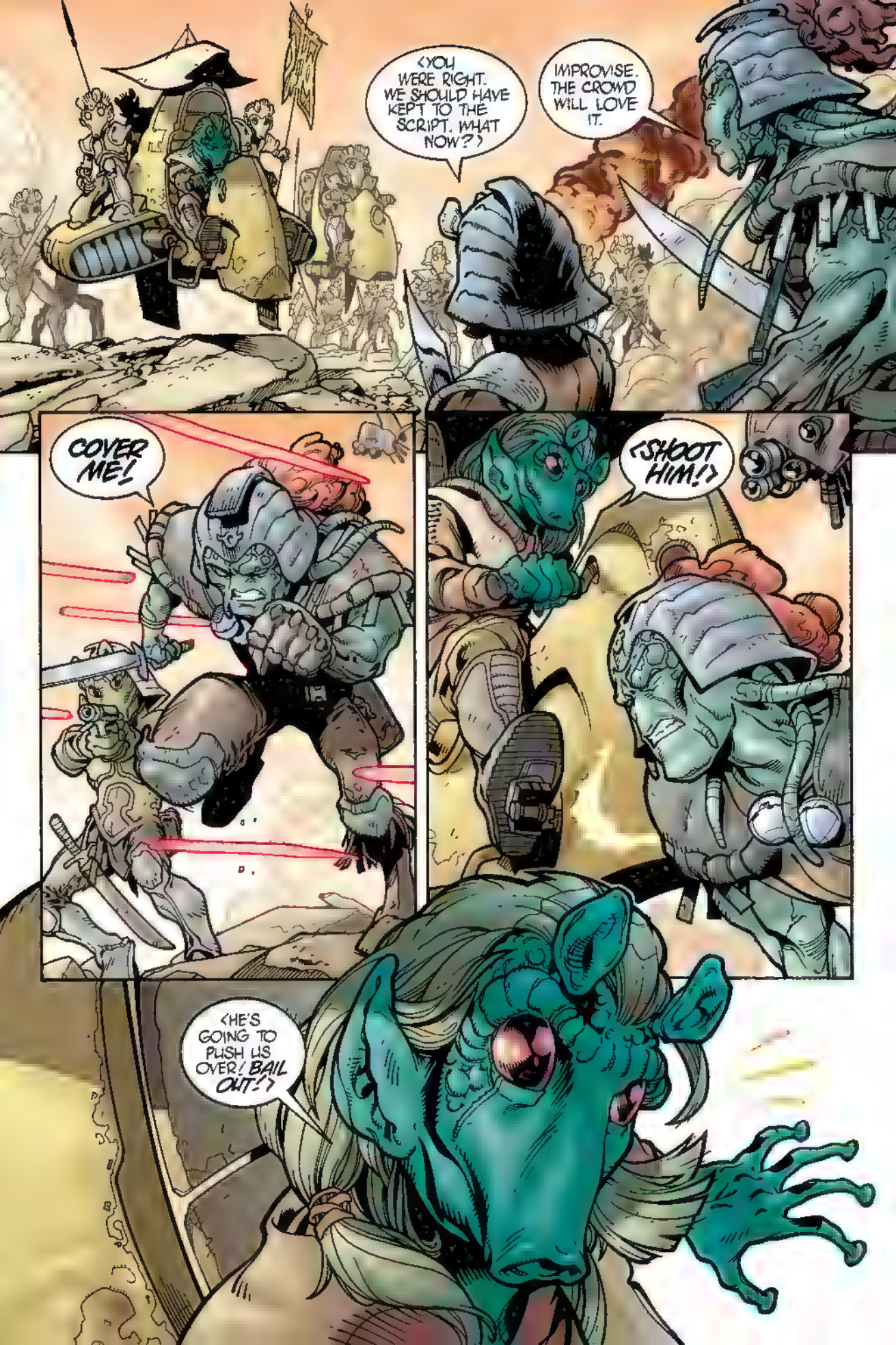
<AND THE THREE THOUSAND CREDITS IN THE WAR CHEST.>

BUT WHY THE CAM DROIDS? AND THE CROWDS?

<THE BATTLE IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. AND, IN OUR CULTURE...>

"...WAR IS ART..."
RF BACHS
RAUL

JANNIK! YOU'RE TOO DEEP IN THE BATTLE! FALL BACK!
(I'M THE CLAN LEADER! I DO NOT "FALL BACK"!)
INSTEAD YOU LET THE ENEMY CUT US OFF FROM YOUR CREW. BRILLIANT LEADERSHIP!


(YOU WERE RIGHT. WE SHOULD HAVE KEPT TO THE SCRIPT. WHAT NOW?)
IMPROVISE. THE CROWD WILL LOVE IT.
COVER ME!
(SHOOT HIM!)
(HE'S GOING TO PUSH US OVER! BAIL OUT!)

AGH!
HURRGH
AND THIS CLAN WAR IS OVER...
<DON'T COUNT ON IT, NYM.>
<KILL THE ALIEN!>

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING, JINKINS. HOW'S HE DOIN'?
BETTER THAN WE EXPECTED.
THE RODIANS DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
<IT'S AN HONOR TO DIE BY YOUR SIDE, NYM.>
DON'T BE SO MELO-DRAMATIC.
WE STILL HAVE AN OUT.
<THE REPUBLIC HAS OUTLAWED THERMAL DETONATORS...>
GOOD THING I'M AN OUTLAW.

TIMER IS SET. GET READY TO FLY...
POW
VEEE
THUD

WAS THAT A THERMAL DETO-NATOR?
<IT WOULD APPEAR SO. AN UNORTHODOX WEAPON, TO BE SURE. BUT OBVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE ...>
<THE ENTIRE CAIRN CLAN IS A CRATER.>
I CAN'T SEE THE FEEORIN. THERE'S TOO MUCH SMOKE.
<I DOUBT HE SURVIVED. I DECLARE THIS BATTLE A DRAW.>
YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO RETHINK THAT.

<JANNIK YOU'RE ALIVE? UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, OF COURSE, THE BATTLE BELONGS TO YOU.?
GOOD. NOW WHY DON'T YOU BOTH HAND OVER ALL THAT SHINY JEWELRY. AND THE WAR CHEST.
<YOU TRAITOROUS DUNG BEETLE! I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A PIKE!?
GIVE ME A BREAK, JANNIK YOU KNEW I WAS A PIRATE WHEN YOU HIRED ME.
<YOU WON'T GET FAR. I'LL HAVE EVERY WARRIOR ON THE PLANET HUNTING FOR YOU.?
I LIKE THOSE ODDS. SEE YA AROUND.

LATER...
"I'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD ON A PIKE?" WHO WROTE THAT?
<I HAD TO AD LIB. I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT THAT FAR. BUT SINCE WE'RE ALIVE, I'D LIKE MY CUT.>
YOU'VE EARNED IT. BETTER SPEND IT FAST, THOUGH.
YOU'LL BE THE GRAND PROTECTOR'S MOST WANTED WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT YOU WERE WORKIN' FOR ME.
<YEAH, I KNOW. I WAS HOPING THAT MY CREW AND I COULD HITCH A RIDE OFFWORLD...>
SMUGGLING RODIANS IS A CAPITAL OFFENSE.
SO'S ROBBING THE GRAND PROTECTOR.
AW, GRIST... YOU'RE A LONG WAY FROM MARAMERE, FISH LADY.

YOU'RE AS TACTFUL AS EVERYONE SAYS, NYM.
IT'S MY GIFT. NOW, YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO TELL ME WHO YOU ARE BEFORE I GET GRUMPY
I'M AMBASSADOR LORELI RO OF THE MERE. PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER ROBBING ME EARLIER TODAY?
I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR WEAPONS HOLSTERED.
ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENTS, AND I SEND A HOMING DISTRESS CALL TO THE GRAND PROTECTOR.
Aw, YOU MERE ARE TOO JUMPY. YOU WANT YOUR JEWELRY BACK? FINE. I HAVE IT ALL RIGHT HERE. IT WON'T PAWN FOR MUCH ON NAR SHADDAA ANYWAY.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THE JEWELRY...
I JUST WANT YOU.
IF I HAD A CREDIT FOR EVERY TIME I'VE HEARD THAT... WHAT DID I DO? ROB YOUR FAMILY ONCE? OR ARE YOU AFTER THE TRADE FEDERATION BOUNTY?
I WANT YOU TO COME HOME.

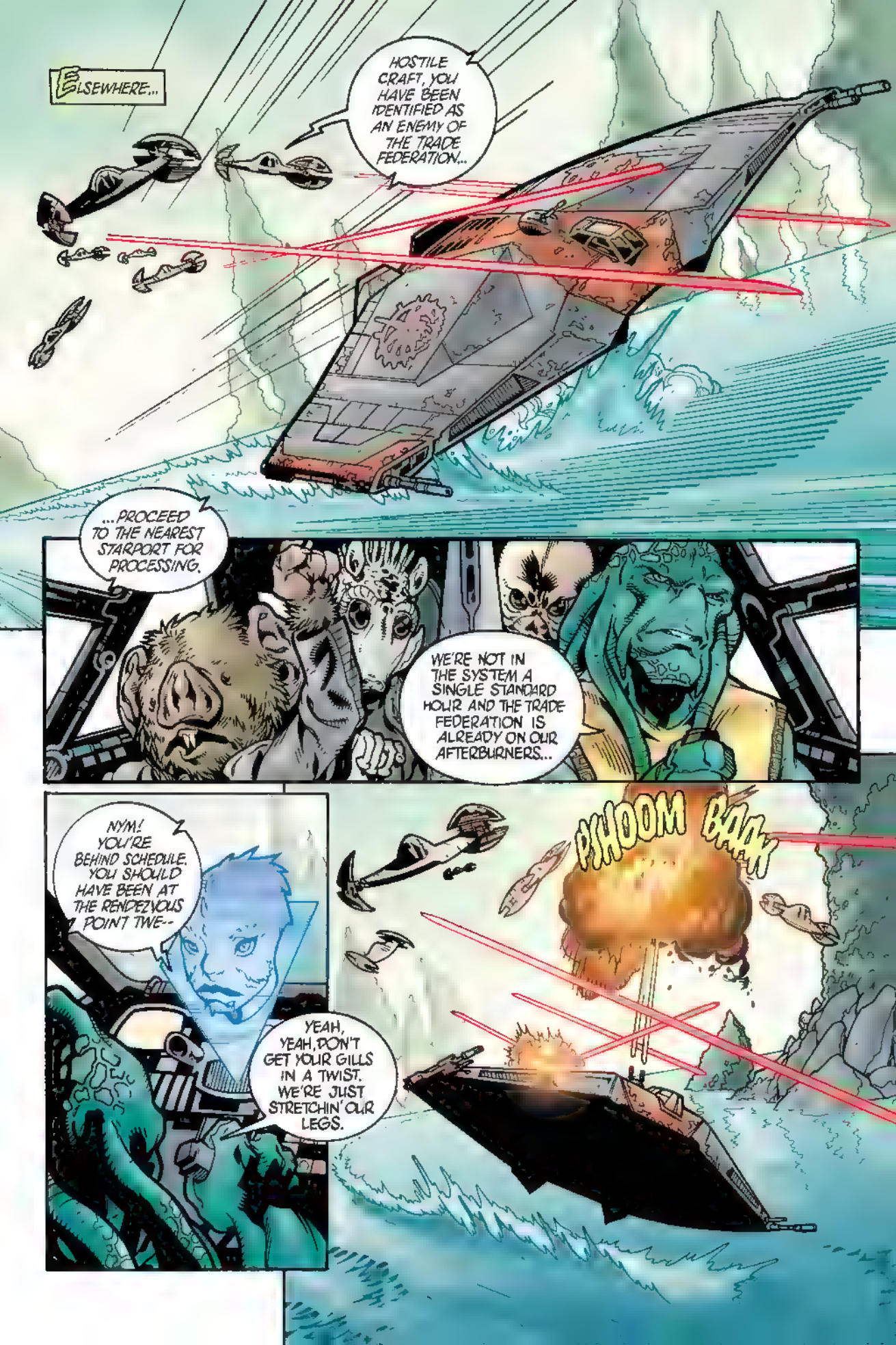
SO, THIS SOL SIXXA LUNATIC IS TAKING OUT TRADE FEDERATION BOATS ON MARAMERE ?
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM.
SIXXA IS THE WORST CRIMINAL OUR WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN
WE CAN'T PREDICT WHEN HIS TASTE IN VICTIMS MIGHT CHANGE.
AND THE TRADE FEDERATION IS TRIGGER HAPPY.
WE MERE DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR.
STILL DOESN'T INVOLVE ME. I'M NOT GOING BACK TO THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM FOR ANYTH--
YOU'LL BE A HERO TO MY PEOPLE.
HAH! A HERO WHO ENDS UP IN FRONT OF A TRADE FEDERATION FIRING SQUAD. NO WAY.
THEN FIFTY THOUSAND CREDITS TO BRING SOL SIXXA TO JUSTICE.
FIVE THOUSAND CREDITS UP FRONT, AND YOU GOT YOUR HERO.

UNCHARTED WATERS ON THE PLANET MARAMERE IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM.
FOG'S THICKER THAN A PACK OF WINTER MOTHS... KEEP A LENS ON THE SCANNERS.
AYE, CAPTAIN. NO SIGN OF THE TRADE FEDERATION, OR THE INVISIBLE ISLAND, IF IT EVEN EXISTS.
THE ISLAND'S OUT THERE, MY FRIEND. I FEEL IT IN MY GUTS. AND ONCE WE REACH IT, WE'LL BE SAFE FROM THE TRADE FEDERATION LEECHES.
BUT FIRST, WE'D BETTER NOT RUN AROUND IN THIS SOUP.
CAPTAIN, I'M READING LARGE LANDMASSES AHEAD. IT MIGHT BE...

"...THE HAUNTED STRAIT."
THEN THE LEGENDS WERE TRUE... THE STRAIT EXISTS. BUT IS IT TRULY HAUNTED BY SOL SIXXA?
AND WILL WE REALLY FIND THE INVISIBLE ISLAND ON THE OTHER SIDE?
I'M SURE YOU'LL WANT TO FIND OUT...

ANYTHING?
NOT EVEN A RIPPLE. I GUESS ANOTHER LEGEND'S BEEN PUT TO REST.
SOL SIXXA IS A FAIRY TALE.
BY THE OCEAN'S HAIR... WHA--?!
GHOSTS!

RETREAT! HEAD BACK TO THE OPEN OCEAN!
THEY HAVE US BOXED IN!
WE'LL BE SLAUGHTERED!
AND I'M JUST A GHOST STORY.
PLEASE, WE'RE JUST REFUGEES... TRYING TO ESCAPE THE TRADE FEDERATION...
SEND THE CAPTAIN DOWN WITH HIS SHIP.

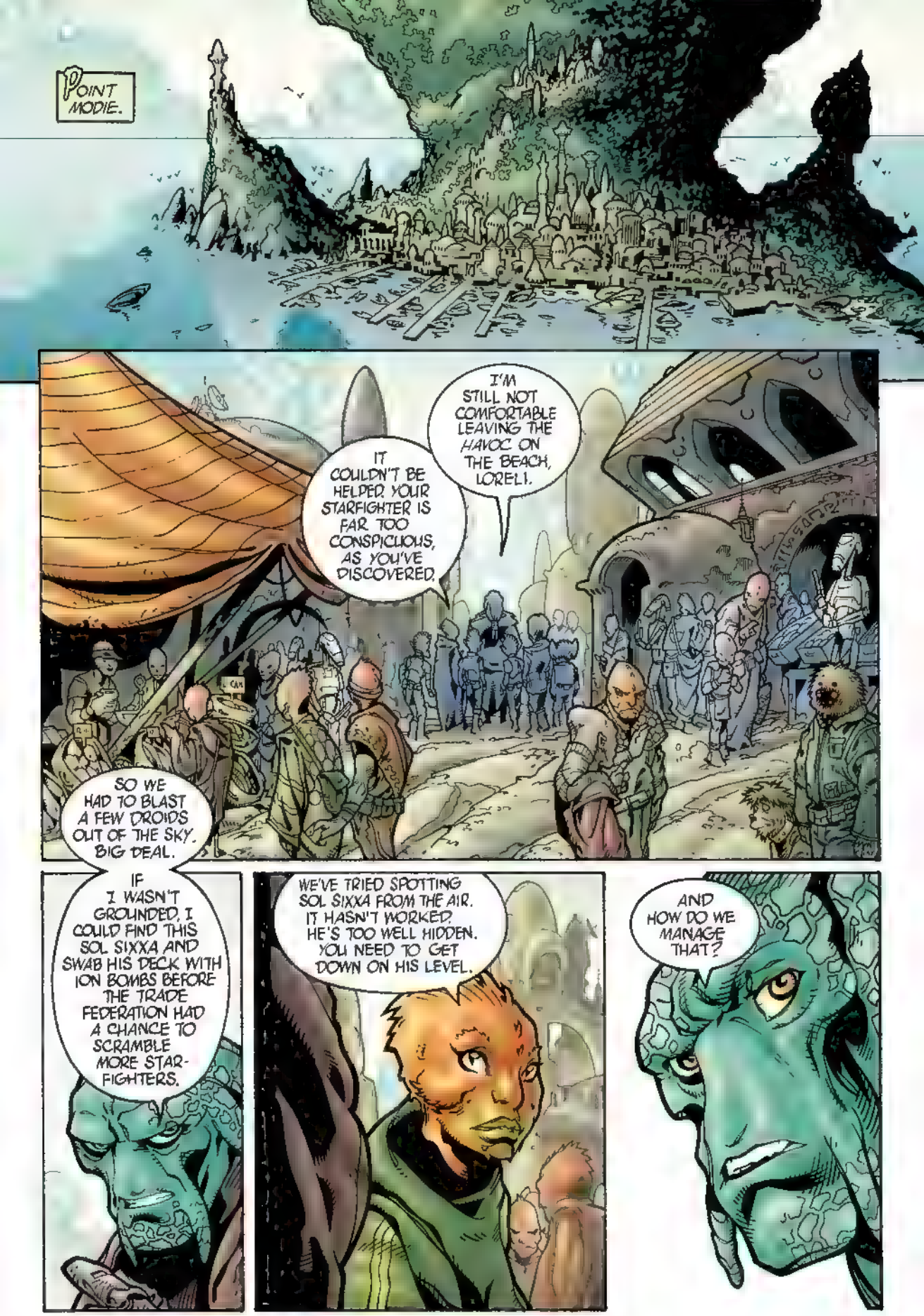

ELSEWHERE...
HOSTILE CRAFT, YOU HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN ENEMY OF THE TRADE FEDERATION...
...PROCEED TO THE NEAREST STARPORT FOR PROCESSING.
WE'RE NOT IN THE SYSTEM A SINGLE STANDARD HOUR AND THE TRADE FEDERATION IS ALREADY ON OUR AFTERBURNERS...
NYM! YOU'RE BEHIND SCHEDULE. YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT TWE--
YEAH, YEAH, DON'T GET YOUR GILLS IN A TWIST. WE'RE JUST STRETCHIN' OUR LEGS.
PHOOM
BOOM

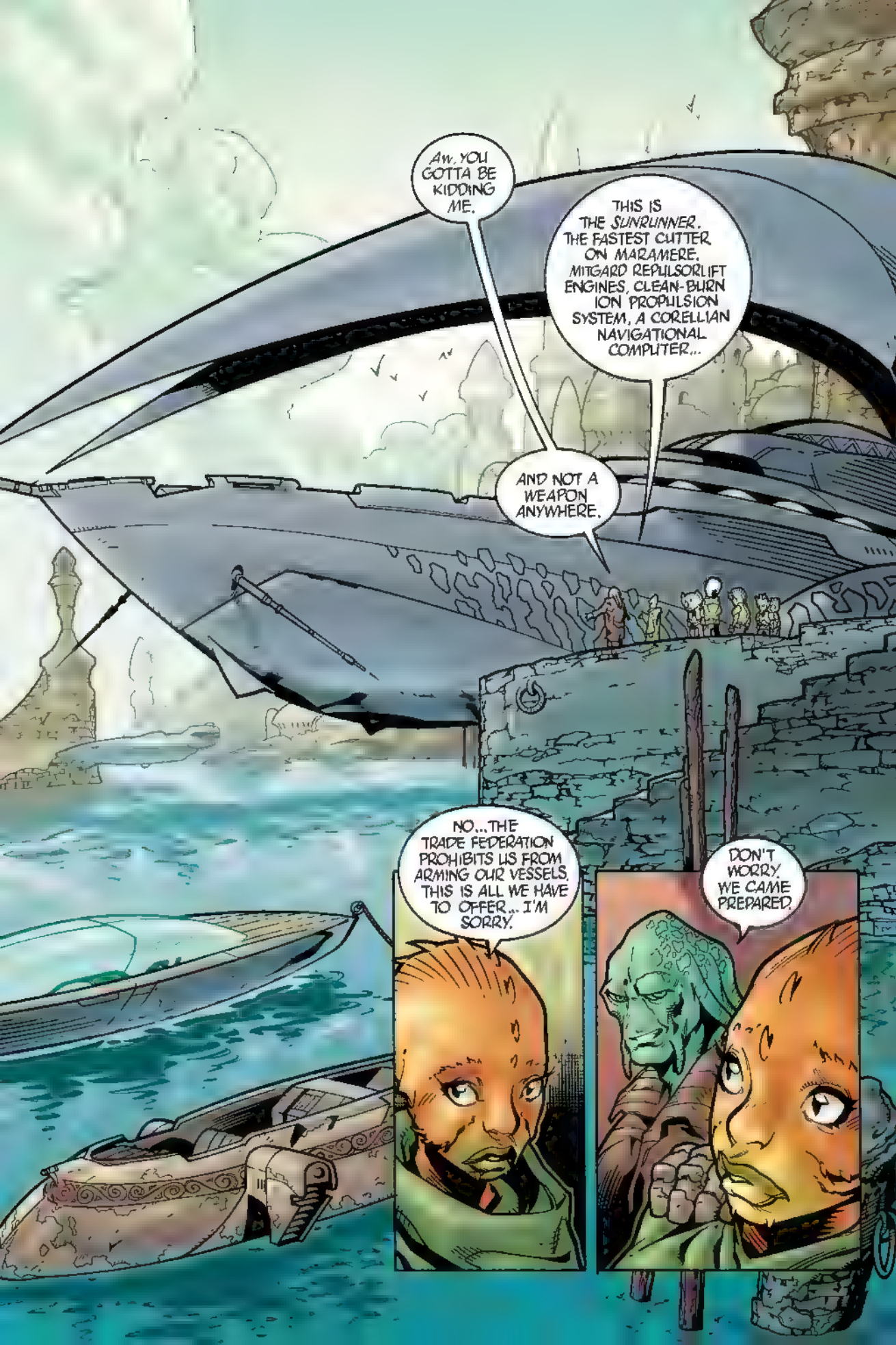
WHAT WAS THAT?
A BUG HIT THE WIND-SHIELD.
NYM--
IT WAS A BIG BUG. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. NYM OUT.
ALL POWER ROUTED TO THE BOMBLET GENERATOR. YOU READY TO FIGHT BACK, BOSS?
Oh, YEAH... CHECK YOUR BUCKLES, BOYS...
...THIS MIGHT SCRATCH THE PAINT.

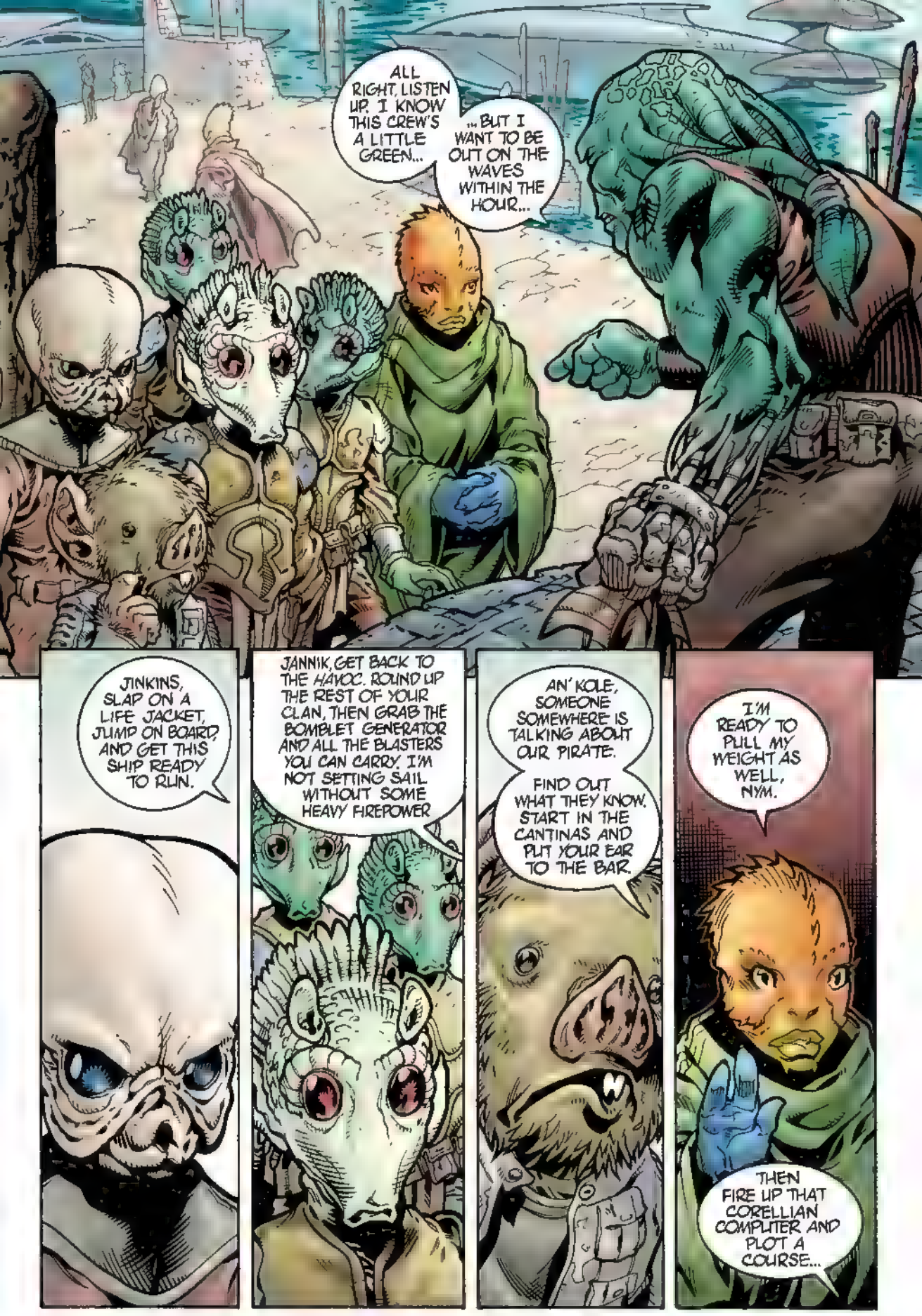
MORE DROID STARFIGHTERS, BREAKING LOW.
I'M ON IT, KOLE. PUSH THE BUTTON.
BOMB'S AWAY...

BWAM
CHOOM
SCANNERS CLEAR. NO HOSTILES ON THE HORIZON.
THEN OPEN HER UP. LOREL! IS WAITING...
INTERESTING...

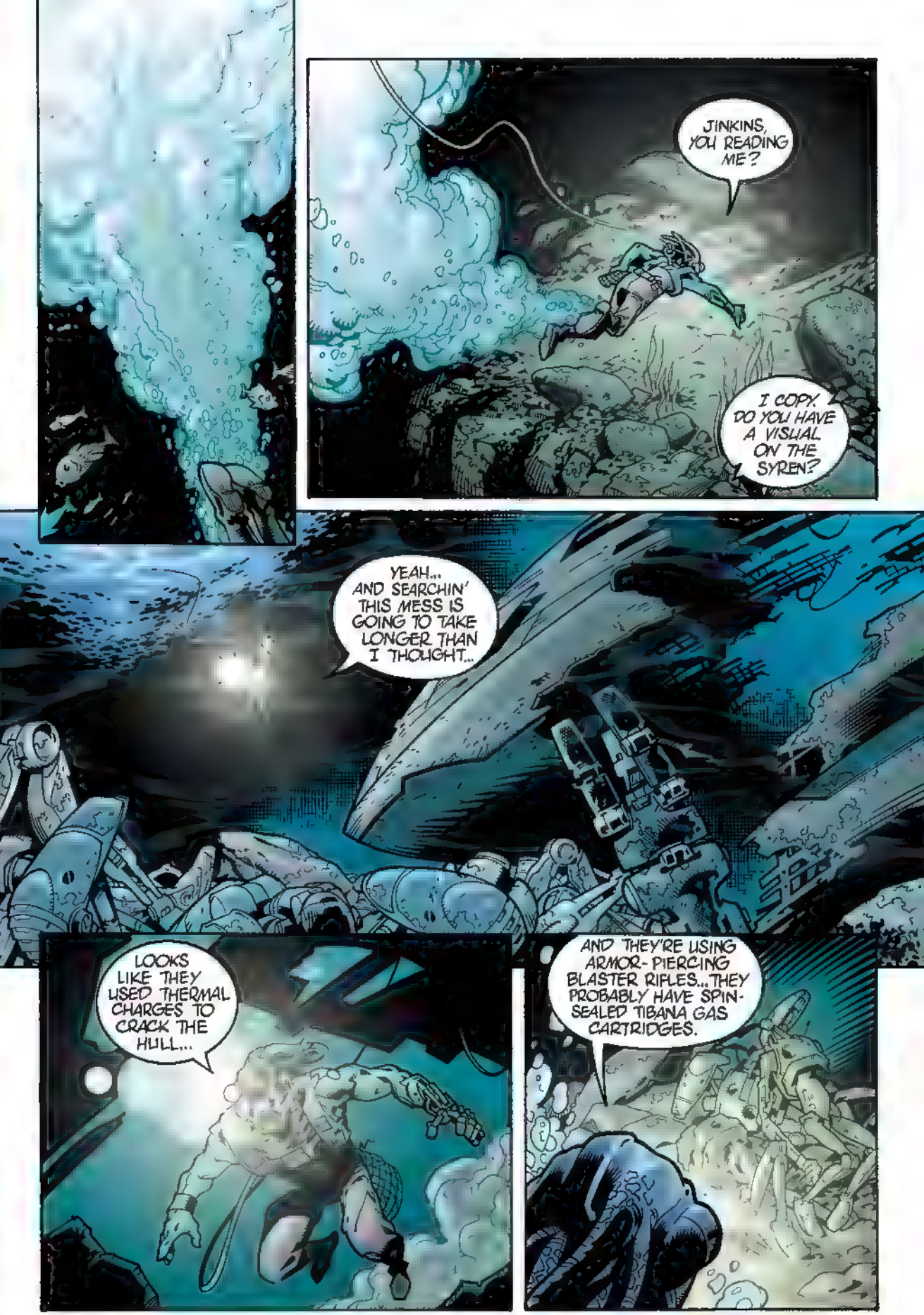
LORD RUUK...
CAPTAIN...
WE HAVE A COMPLICATION.
THIS MORNING, A STARFIGHTER DESTROYED SEVERAL PATROL CRAFT NEAR POINT MODIE.
THE SHIP HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE HAVOC.
IT BELONGS TO THE MERCENARY NYM. HE'S WANTED IN THREE SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THIS ONE...
OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT HE'S A HIRED GUN, CONTRACTED BY AMBASSADOR RO TO FIND AND KILL...
SOL SIXXA.
YOURS TRULY.
PUT OUR EYES ON HIM.


POINT MODIE.
I'M STILL NOT COMFORTABLE LEAVING THE HAVOC ON THE BEACH, LORELI.
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. YOUR STARFIGHTER IS FAR TOO CONSPICUOUS, AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED.
SO WE HAD TO BLAST A FEW DROIDS OUT OF THE SKY. BIG DEAL.
IF I WASN'T GROUNDED, I COULD FIND THIS SOL SIXXA AND SWAB HIS DECK WITH ION BOMBS BEFORE THE TRADE FEDERATION HAD A CHANCE TO SCRAMBLE MORE STAR-FIGHTERS.
WE'VE TRIED SPOTTING SOL SIXXA FROM THE AIR. IT HASN'T WORKED. HE'S TOO WELL HIDDEN. YOU NEED TO GET DOWN ON HIS LEVEL.
AND HOW DO WE MANAGE THAT?


AW, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
THIS IS THE SUNRUNNER. THE FASTEST CUTTER ON MARAMERE. MITGARD REPULSORLIFT ENGINES, CLEAN-BURN ION PROPULSION SYSTEM, A CORELLIAN NAVIGATIONAL COMPUTER...
AND NOT A WEAPON ANYWHERE.
NO...THE TRADE FEDERATION PROHIBITS US FROM ARMING OUR VESSELS. THIS IS ALL WE HAVE TO OFFER... I'M SORRY.
DON'T WORRY. WE CAME PREPARED.


ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP. I KNOW THIS CREW'S A LITTLE GREEN...
...BUT I WANT TO BE OUT ON THE WAVES WITHIN THE HOUR...
JINKINS, SLAP ON A LIFE JACKET, JUMP ON BOARD, AND GET THIS SHIP READY TO RUN.
JANNIK, GET BACK TO THE HAVOC. ROUND UP THE REST OF YOUR CLAN, THEN GRAB THE BOMBLET GENERATOR AND ALL THE BLASTERS YOU CAN CARRY. I'M NOT SETTING SAIL WITHOUT SOME HEAVY FIREPOWER
AN' KOLE, SOMEONE SOMEWHERE IS TALKING ABOUT OUR PIRATE.
FIND OUT WHAT THEY KNOW. START IN THE CANTINAS AND PUT YOUR EAR TO THE BAR.
I'M READY TO PULL MY WEIGHT AS WELL, NYM.
THEN FIRE UP THAT CORELLIAN COMPUTER AND PLOT A COURSE...

" WE'RE GOING WRECK-DIVING. "
ACCORDING TO OUR REPORTS, THE SYREN, A TRADE FEDERATION PLEASURE LINER, IS RIGHT BELOW US.
GOOD. IF I CAN EYEBALL THE DAMAGE ON THAT SUNKEN LINER FIRST-HAND, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE WEAPONS SOL SIXXA IS USING.
I'M NOT GOING TOE-TO-FLIPPER WITH HIM UNTIL I KNOW WHAT HE'S PACKIN'.
BE CAREFUL. THESE AREN'T THE SAFEST WATERS...
YOU'RE SET. KEEP US POSTED.
I'VE BEEN SWIMMING WITH SHARKS SINCE I WAS BORN. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
MAN OVER-BOARD!


JINKINS, YOU READING ME?
I COPY. DO YOU HAVE A VISUAL ON THE SYREN?
YEAH... AND SEARCHIN' THIS MESS IS GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN I THOUGHT...
LOOKS LIKE THEY USED THERMAL CHARGES TO CRACK THE HULL...
AND THEY'RE USING ARMOR-PIERCING BLASTER RIFLES... THEY PROBABLY HAVE SPIN-SEALED TIBANA GAS CARTRIDGES.

I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY BODIES YET, AND THE HOLD IS STILL FULL...
THEY MUST'VE KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT THEY WERE AFTER.
PURE SABACC...
I'VE FOUND A TALKING HEAD, JINKINS. GET OUT YOUR TOOL-BOX.
I'M ON MY WAY UP.
JUST AS SOON AS I COLLECT MY DANGER PAY...
...Oh, no...
NYM! YOU HAVE TO SURFACE NOW!

THE RELIX IS HEADED YOUR WAY!
WHAT? WHAT'S A RELIX?
NEVER MIND. I FIGURED IT OUT.
I CAN'T OUTRUN THIS THING! I'M GONNA HAVE TO CHASE IT OFF!
YOU CAN'T FIGHT IT!
RELAX. IT'S JUST A FISH...

KRAK
FWAP
LORELI, I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT GARBAGE HAULER BEIN' THE FASTEST SHIP ON MARAMERE...
DRAW YOUR BLASTERS AND GET READY TO GUN THE ENGINES. WE'RE GOIN' FISHING.

ARGH!
RRR! JINKINS! FULL AHEAD!

BY THE GRAND PROTECTOR-- SHOOT IT!
KILLING ENDANGERED WILDLIFE WASN'T PART OF THE JOB...
WELL, WE'LL THROW IT IN FOR FREE.
NYM!
HEY, SHINY. I BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT. THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT SING?

IT HAS A CRACKED BRAINCASE, BUT I GOT IT TALKING AGAIN.
WHAT'S YOUR DESIGNATION?
:BZZT: OH, MY... MASTER TOAT...SOLLL SIXXA...
PL-37. SERVANT OF THE TRADE FEDER... PIRATES!
DAMN DROIDS... PL-37, WHAT WAS YOUR CARGO?
CLASSIFIED. TOP SECRET. NOT FIT FOR RELEASE.
:SIGH: JINKINS...
AAAHH! OH, DEAR! EXPERIMENTAL TECHNOLOGY! THE SHIP WAS CARRYING A PROTOTYPE...
PROTO-TYPE WHAT?
.....
IT'S BURNED OUT.

LORD RULIK! ONE OF THE SYREN'S PROTOCOL DROIDS HAS BEEN REACTIVATED!
CAN YOU TRACK THE SIGNAL?
YES. SHOULD I ORDER AN AIRSTRIKE?
NO. WE'LL LET NYM LEAD US TO SOL SIXXA. THEN WE'LL DROWN THEM BOTH...
THE SILVER CLOUD, POINT MODIE.
IT WASH SOL SIXXA, BACK FROM THE DEAD... JUSSHT APPEARED OUTTA THE FOG...
NYM, THIS IS KOLE. I THINK I'VE FOUND OUR INFORMANT...
GOOD WORK. GRAB HIM BY THE COLLAR AND BRING HIM ALONG.
WE COULD USE THE EXTRA HANDS.

THE REFUGEE CAPTAIN SURVIVED? ARE YOU CERTAIN?
YES. HE JUST LEFT THE CANTINA WITH ONE OF NYM'S CREW. IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY FIND YOU, SIXXA.
LET THEM COME. WE'LL BE WAITING.
TO BE CONCLUDED...

4 BOARD THE REVENANT ON THE PLANET MARAMERE IN THE KARTHAKK SYSTEM.
WEATHER'S TURNING BAD... POOR TIMING FOR A SHOWDOWN WITH NYM, CAPTAIN. I'D RE-CONSIDER.
THE REPUBLIC CALLS HIM AN "UNPREDICTABLE MENACE" AND A "TACTICAL GENIUS" IN THE SAME SENTENCE.
THE TRADE FEDERATION HAS SPENT A BILLION CREDITS TRYING TO PUT HIM DOWN.
AN' IF YOU BELIEVE THE HOLONET, HE'S BEEN KILLED MORE TIMES THAN YOU, SOL SIXXA. WE SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
HMM. YOU'RE AFRAID OF NYM.
JUST CAUTIOUS. HE'S RESILIENT AND RUTHLESS.

BUT HE'S MISSING THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS...
HE'S NOT A MURDERER.
ANYONE ELSE WANT TO SOUND A RETREAT?
TOO LATE, CAPTAIN! I HAVE A VISUAL ON NYM'S CUTTER, JUST OUTSIDE THE STRAITS AND MOVING FAST!
ACTIVATE THE PROTOTYPE! WE CAN'T BE STOPPED!
AND USE THAT COWARD TO CHUM THE WATERS...
...THERE'S GOING TO BE A FEEDING FRENZY WHEN NYM GETS HERE.

AAARRGH!
JINKINS, IF YOU HIT ANOTHER NERVE ENDING, I'M GONNA TAKE THAT FUSION CUTTER TO YOUR SKULL!
SORRY, NYM. YOUR ALIEN PHYSIOLOGY ISN'T RESPONDING TO THE ANESTHETIC.
BZZT
SHOP
BZZZ
THEN WORK FASTER!
ALMOST DONE-- DON'T FLINCH!
BRRCZT
THERE... THAT SHOULD BE THE LAST CONNECTION.
THIS THING HAD BETTER NOT BLOW UP THE FIRST TIME I FIRE IT...
IF YOU TWO ARE DONE WITH YER SCIENCE PROJECT, WE'RE NEARIN' THE STRAITS.
THIS IS WHERE MY CONVOY WAS ATTACKED ...
NO PROMISES. I HAD TO COBBLE IT TOGETHER ON SHORT NOTICE. BUT IT WAS EITHER THAT OR THE GIANT HOOK.
YEAH, I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE HAND CANNON.

LORELI, WHAT'S THE SHORT STORY ON THESE WATERS?
THE HAUNTED STRAITS ARE SAID TO BE GUARDED BY THE GHOSTS OF ALL THOSE MERE LOST AT SEA.
YOU'RE A SUPERSTITIOUS SPECIES, YOU KNOW THAT?
WE HAVE STRONG BELIEFS, YES.
OUR LEGENDS ALSO CLAIM THAT BEYOND THE STRAITS IS THE INVISIBLE ISLAND..
...A PARADISE THAT DOES NOT APPEAR ON MAPS OR SCANNERS.
AND YOU FIGURED THAT ISLAND IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HIDE FROM THE NEIMOIDIANS.
BETTER TO BRAVE DEATH AT SEA THAN TOIL ANOTHER DAY FOR THE NEIMOIDIANS.
WELL, I'LL BET THAT SOL SIXXA KNOWS THE SAME GHOST STORIES AND IS USIN' THE ISLAND TO LAUNCH HIS RAIDS. ONLY PROBLEM IS...

"...YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM THE TRADE FEDERATION FOREVER."
LORD RULIK, WE'RE STILL GETTING A SOLID READING FROM OUR DROID ABOARD NYM'S SHIP. BUT I FEAR WE COULD LOSE THE SIGNAL ONCE THE SUNRUNNER HITS THOSE STRAITS.
HAVE YOU PREPARED AN ATTACK SQUADRON?
OUR FORCES AT POINT MODIE CAN SPARE A FLEET OF GUNBOATS.
IF YOU FEEL A LARGER FORCE IS NECESSARY, I CAN CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD...
NO. WE DON'T WANT THOSE FOOLS REALIZING THIS PLANET'S FULL POTENTIAL...OR GETTING THEIR HANDS ON THE PROTOTYPE.
LAUNCH THE SQUADRON
I WANT OUR TOY RETURNED AND THE PIRATES ELIMINATED. FAIL ME, AND YOU'LL BE RAISING DUNG BEETLES BACK HOME.

IT'S ALMOST TIME. SOL SIXXA IS ON HIS WAY.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
YOU HIRED ME BECAUSE I THINK LIKE A PIRATE. IF I WERE SIXXA, I'D AMBUSH BOATS WHEN THEY WERE ABOUT HALFWAY THROUGH THE STRAITS.
WE DO THINK ALIKE, ALIEN.
KILL THE CREW, CAPTURE THE WOMAN ALIVE, AND LEAVE NYM TO ME!

FALL BACK!
YOU FACE ME WITH A SKELETON CREW AND NO HEAVY FIRE-POWER?
YOUR REPUTATION AS A "TACTICAL GENIUS" IS UNDESERVED, ALIEN.
DON'T BE SO SURE...
CODE GREEN! THEY'VE HIT THE DECK!

WELL-PLAYED, NYM. BUT WE HAVE TRAPS OF OUR OWN!
PREDICTABLE...
WE DID OUR RESEARCH AND CAME PREPARED.

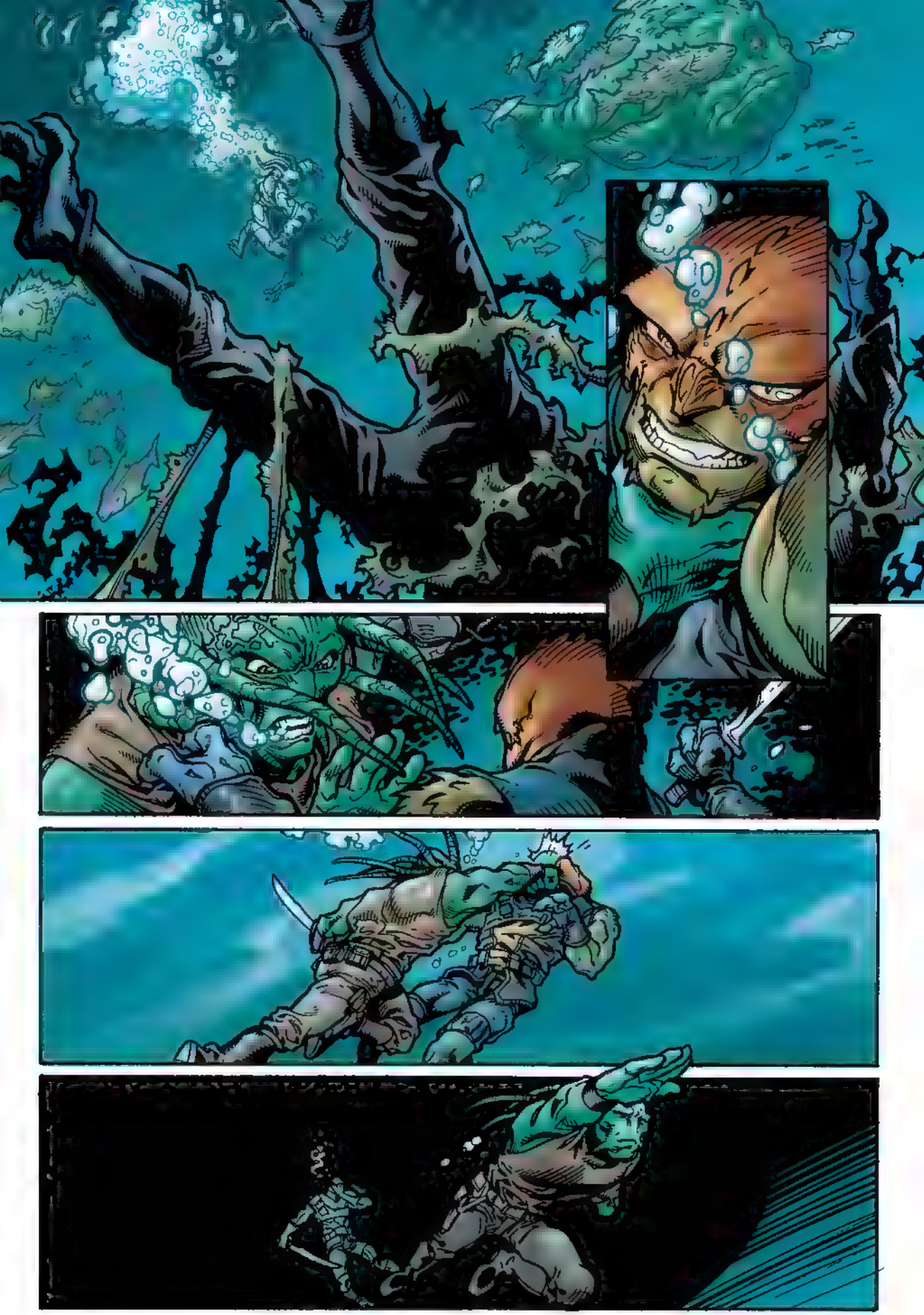
BOMBLET GENERATOR ONLINE, NYM.
JINKINS, FIRE AT WILL!
CLOSER... CLOSER... TARGET ACQUIRED!
" NO MERE SHIP CARRIES A CANNON! WHAT WEAPONRY IS THIS?!"

JUST A LITTLE BOMB GENERATOR THAT WE YANKED FROM MY STARSHIP.
IT DOESN'T HAVE GREAT RANGE, BUT IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO RIP APART YOUR BOAT!
RETREAT BACK TO THE REVENANT!
...not again... JINKINS, TARGET THE BOAT!!
I CAN'T, NYM! IT'S NOT SHOWING UP ON THE SCANNERS...
...and I can't get a visual...

THE STOLEN PROTOTYPE!
DON'T LET FISH BOY ESCAPE!
...urk...
LEAVE IT TO THE TRADE FEDERATION TO BUILD THE ULTIMATE CLOAKING DEVICE.
JANNIK!
I'LL KILL YOU, SOL SIXXA...
FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ME.

JANNIK WILL LIVE! BUT YOU MUST STOP SOL SIXXA!
HAVE A LITTLE FAITH, AMBASSADOR. I'M ON IT!
VOOP
UMM...
...CHARGE!

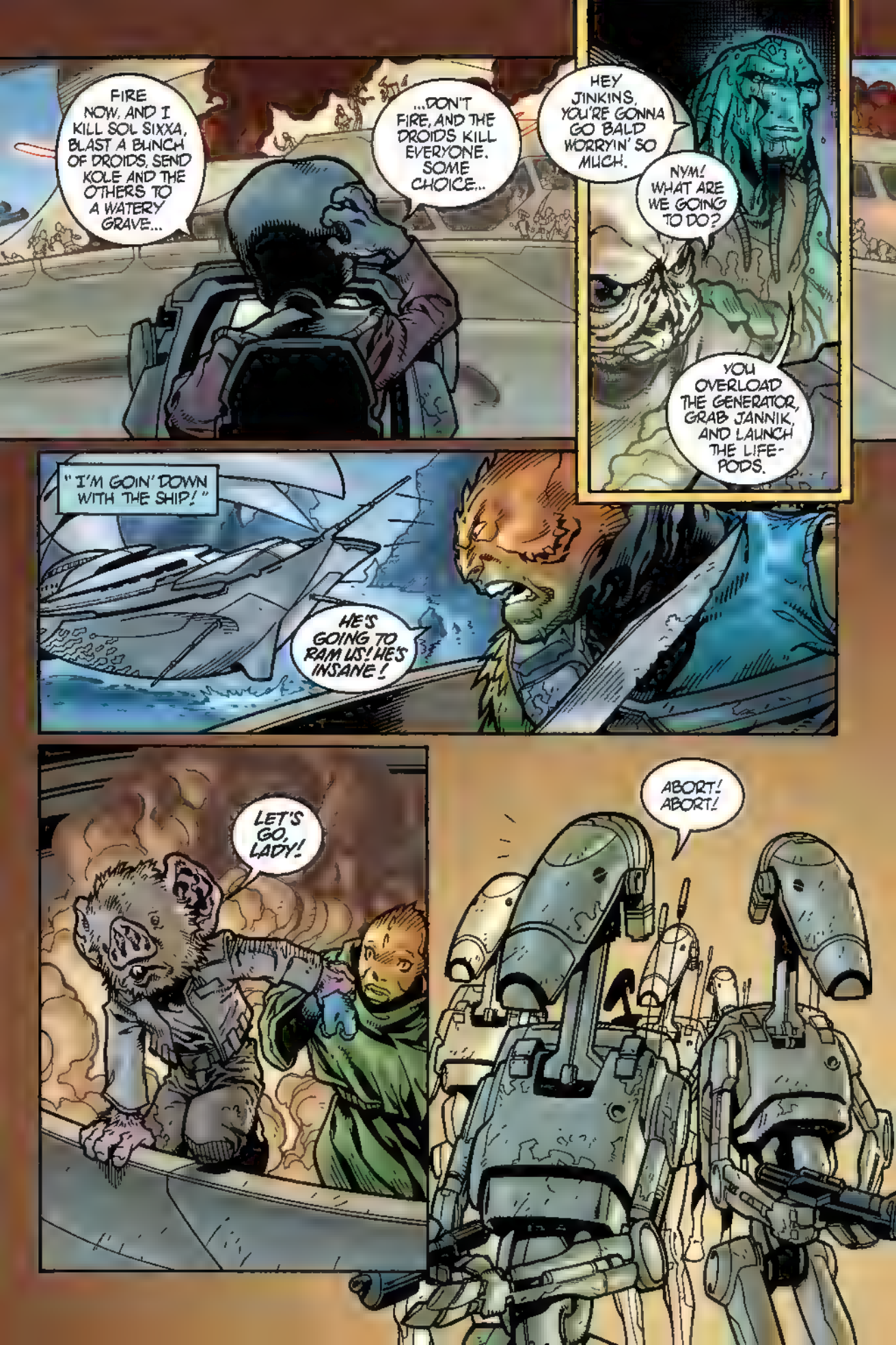
THERE'S GONNA BE ONE MORE GHOST IN THESE STRAITS...
NYM! NO! HE CAN BREATHE...
UNDER-WATER...



THIS IS THE MOST ADVANCED CLOAKING DEVICE I'VE EVER SEEN... BUT YANK ENOUGH PLUGS...
I HAVE A FIX ON SIXXA'S BOAT! uh... AND A FEW OTHER INCOMING CRAFT!
...AND WE'RE VISIBLE AGAIN.
THE TRADE FEDERATION. I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T LET US SETTLE THIS ON OUR OWN.
GREAT. ANYBODY SEEN NYM?

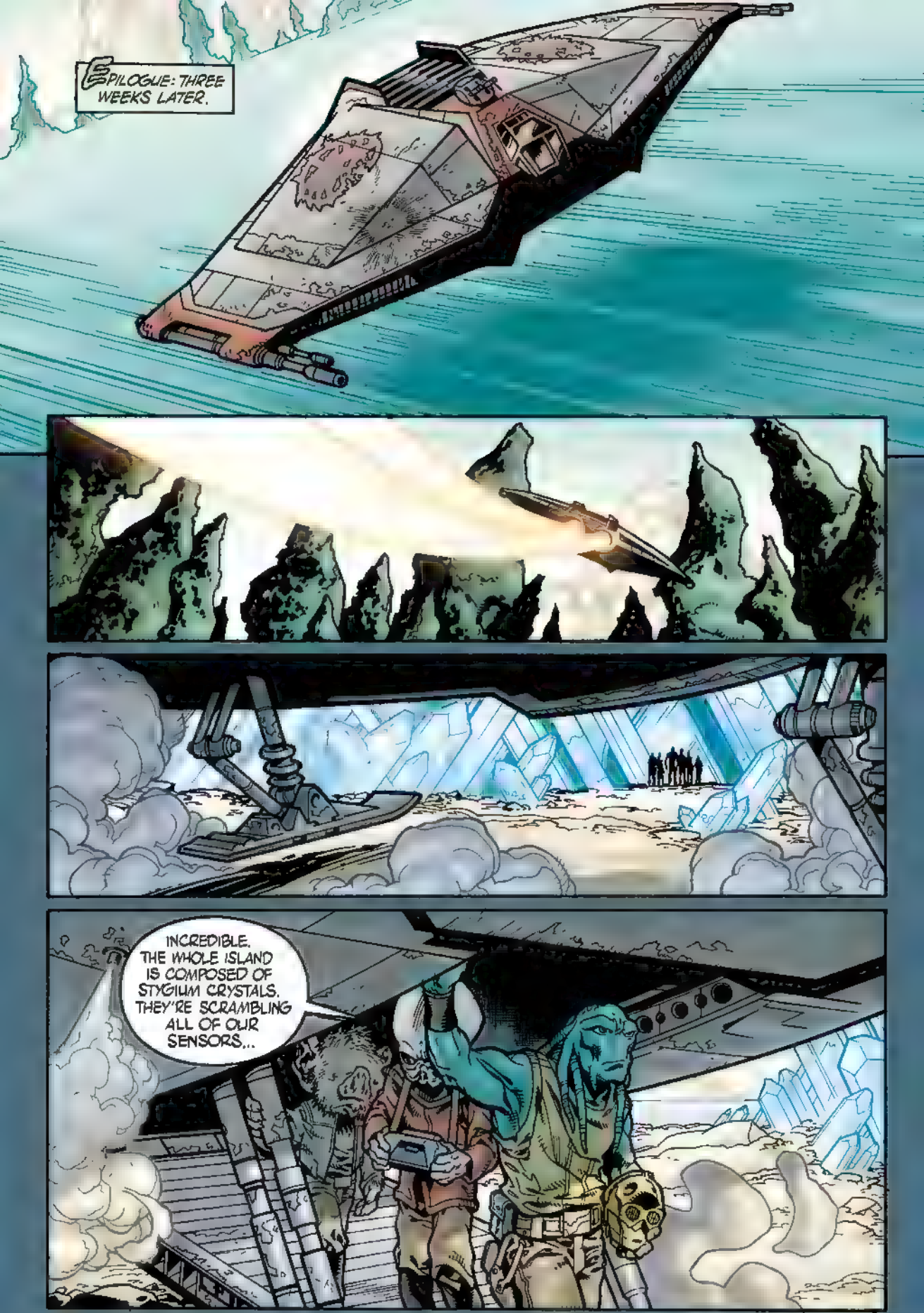
THE INVISIBLE ISLAND?!
YOU'VE SEEN TOO MUCH, ALIEN!
QUIT WHININ'. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M LOOKIN' AT YET.
NOW. THE CRYSTALS ARE THE KEY... AND THEY ARE MINE!
NOT ANYMORE, BRINE BREATH...
BOOM
THE TRADE FEDERATION ...
THEY'LL KILL OUR CREWS. AND TAKE BACK THE CLOAKING DEVICE.

YOU'VE GOT A REPRIEVE.
AND I'VE GOT A PLAN. LET'S GO.
LORD RUUK, WE HAVE CAPTURED BOTH PIRATE VESSELS AND SECURED THE CLOAKING DEVICE. BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF NYM OR...
SOL SIXXA!
OPEN FIRE!
VAPORIZE THEM ALL!


FIRE NOW, AND I KILL SOL SIXXA, BLAST A BUNCH OF DROIDS, SEND KOLE AND THE OTHERS TO A WATERY GRAVE...
...DON'T FIRE, AND THE DROIDS KILL EVERYONE. SOME CHOICE...
HEY JINKINS, YOU'RE GONNA GO BALD WORRYIN' SO MUCH.
NYM! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
YOU OVERLOAD THE GENERATOR, GRAB JANNIK, AND LAUNCH THE LIFE-PODS.
"I'M GOIN' DOWN WITH THE SHIP!"
HE'S GOING TO RAM US! HE'S INSANE!
LET'S GO, LADY!
ABORT! ABORT!

KA-DOOM!

SHE'S SINKING. WHAT NOW?
PLAN NYM'S FUNERAL.
EASY, NYM. I'VE GOT YOU.
SHOULDA LET ME DROWN, AMBASSADOR. NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY ME.
YOU ARE CERTAIN THAT SOL SIXXA IS DEAD?
I'LL TRANSFER THE CREDITS AS SOON AS WE REACH POINT MODIE.
KILLED HIM MYSELF. AND THIS TIME, I HAVE A FEELING HE'LL STAY DEAD.


EPILOGUE: THREE WEEKS LATER.
INCREDIBLE. THE WHOLE ISLAND IS COMPOSED OF STYGIUM CRYSTALS. THEY'RE SCRAMBLING ALL OF OUR SENSORS...

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, NYM?
NO. BUT I FIGURE EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE.
AN' IS THIS HIS... OR YOURS?
NYM. YOU RECEIVED MY MESSAGE.
YEAH. USIN' THE DROID WAS A NICE TOUCH.
SO, YOU AGREE TO JOIN FORCES?
NOT EXACTLY. YOU RUN WITH ME, IT'S NOT AS EQUALS.
I'M YOUR COMMANDER. AN' WE'LL TAKE ALL YOUR HATE AND USE IT TO FIGHT MY WAR.
AGAINST THE DROIDS.
YEP. THAT'S MY OFFER.
AGREED.
THEN THE TRADE FEDERATION DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.
END

Full of Surprises | illustration courtesy of Lucasfilm

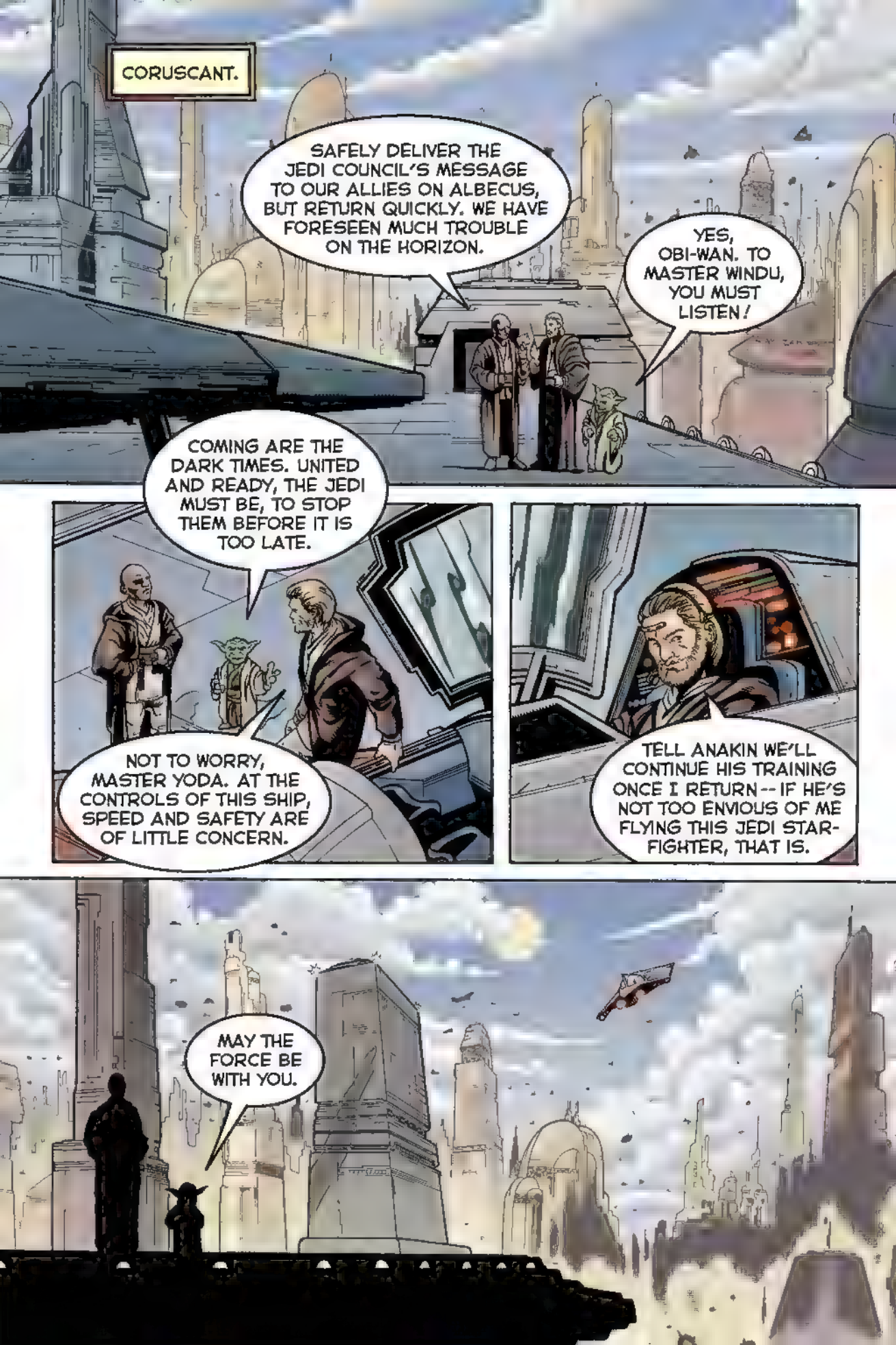
Approximately twenty-two years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

script by Jason Hall

pencils by Manuel Garcia

inks by Fernando Blanco

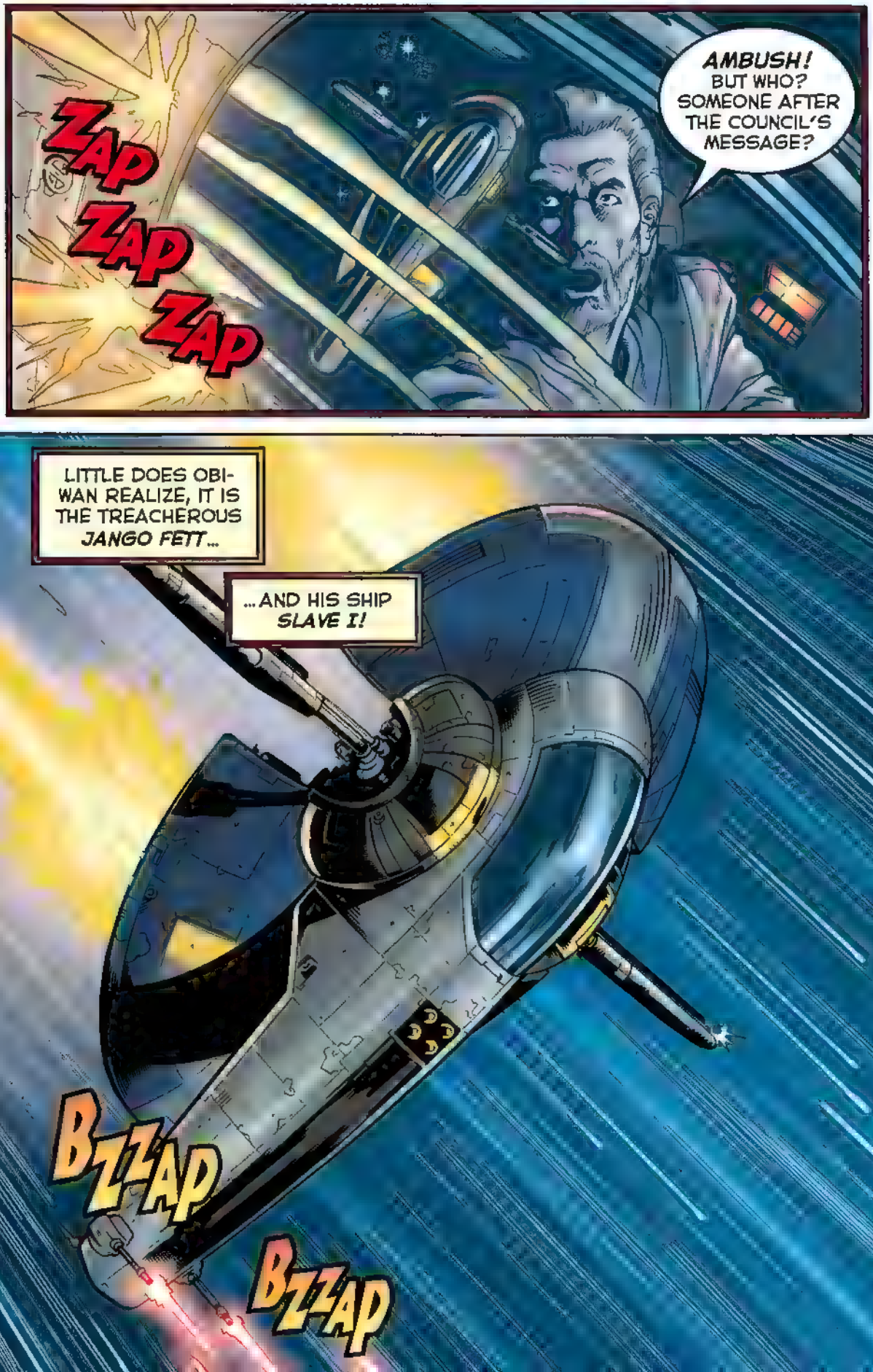
colors and letters by Digital Chameleon


CORUSCANT.
SAFELY DELIVER THE JEDI COUNCIL'S MESSAGE TO OUR ALLIES ON ALBECUS, BUT RETURN QUICKLY. WE HAVE FORESEEN MUCH TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON.
YES, OBI-WAN. TO MASTER WINDU, YOU MUST LISTEN!
COMING ARE THE DARK TIMES. UNITED AND READY, THE JEDI MUST BE, TO STOP THEM BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
NOT TO WORRY, MASTER YODA. AT THE CONTROLS OF THIS SHIP, SPEED AND SAFETY ARE OF LITTLE CONCERN.
TELL ANAKIN WE'LL CONTINUE HIS TRAINING ONCE I RETURN -- IF HE'S NOT TOO ENVIOUS OF ME FLYING THIS JEDI STAR-FIGHTER, THAT IS.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.

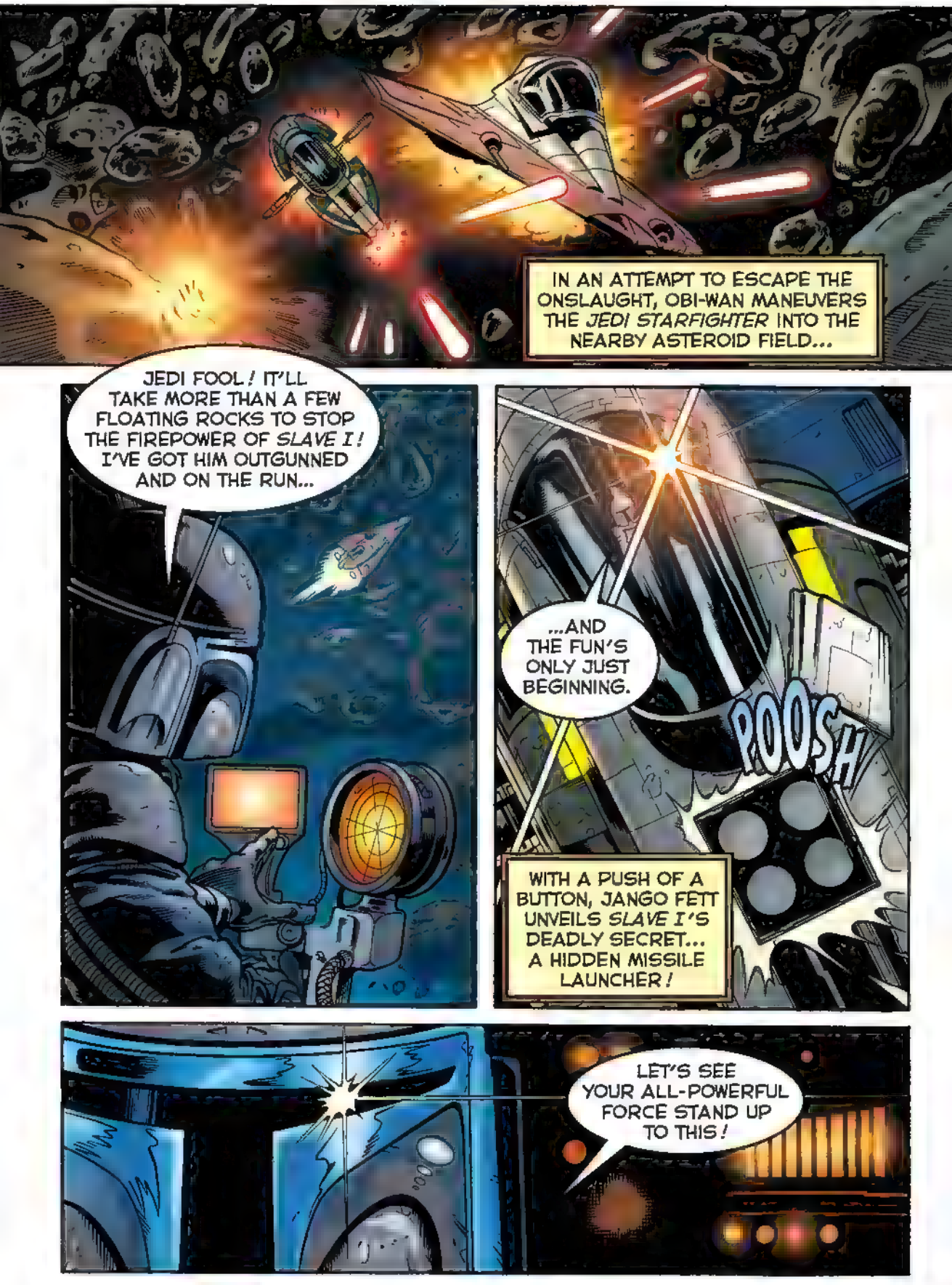
NAV-COMPUTER SAYS IT'S ABOUT TWO HOURS TO ALBECUS...

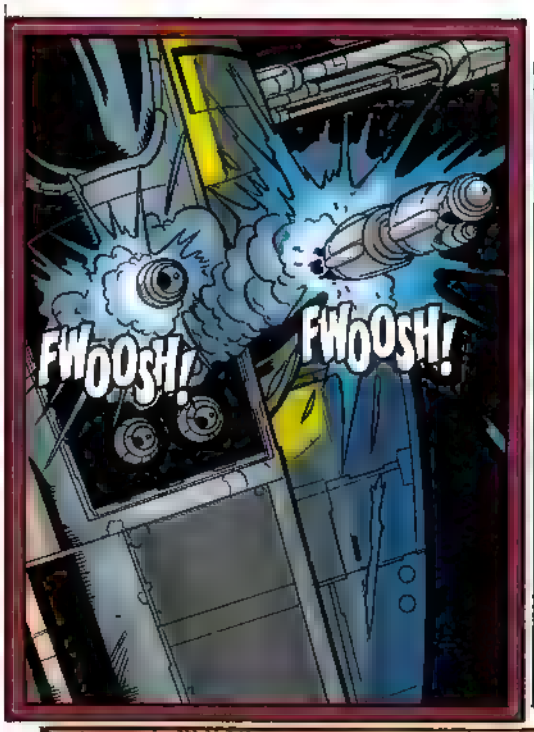
...SO I'LL JUST PLOT A COURSE AROUND THOSE ASTEROIDS AND THEN MEDITATE UNTIL--

THE PROXIMITY ALARM! BUT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY SHIPS IN THE--
beep!
beep!

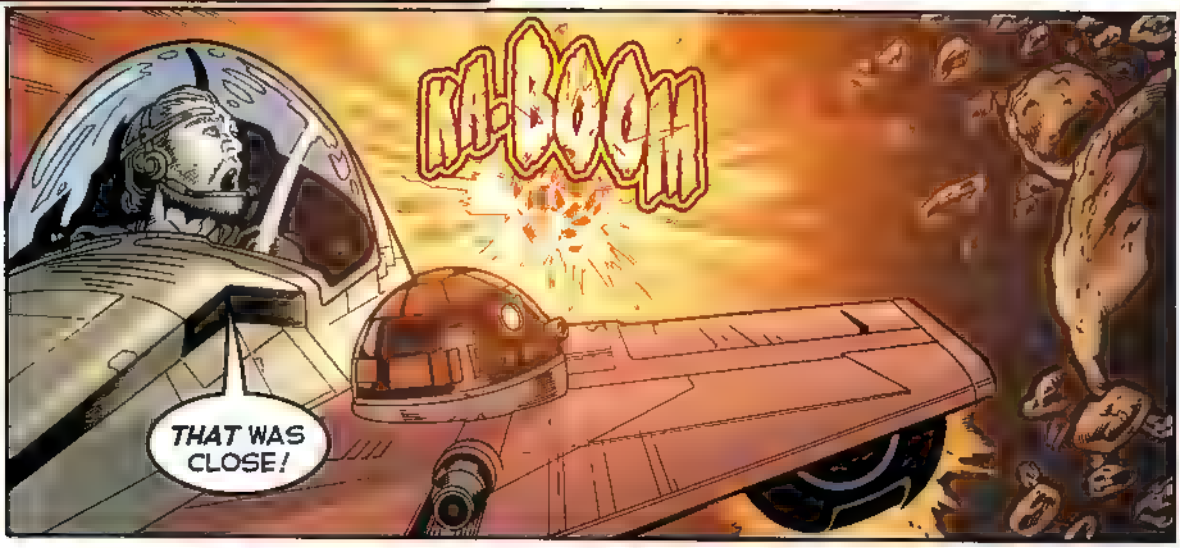

ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
AMBUSH! BUT WHO? SOMEONE AFTER THE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE?
LITTLE DOES OBI-WAN REALIZE, IT IS THE TREACHEROUS JANGO FETT...
...AND HIS SHIP SLAVE I!
BZZAP
BZZAP

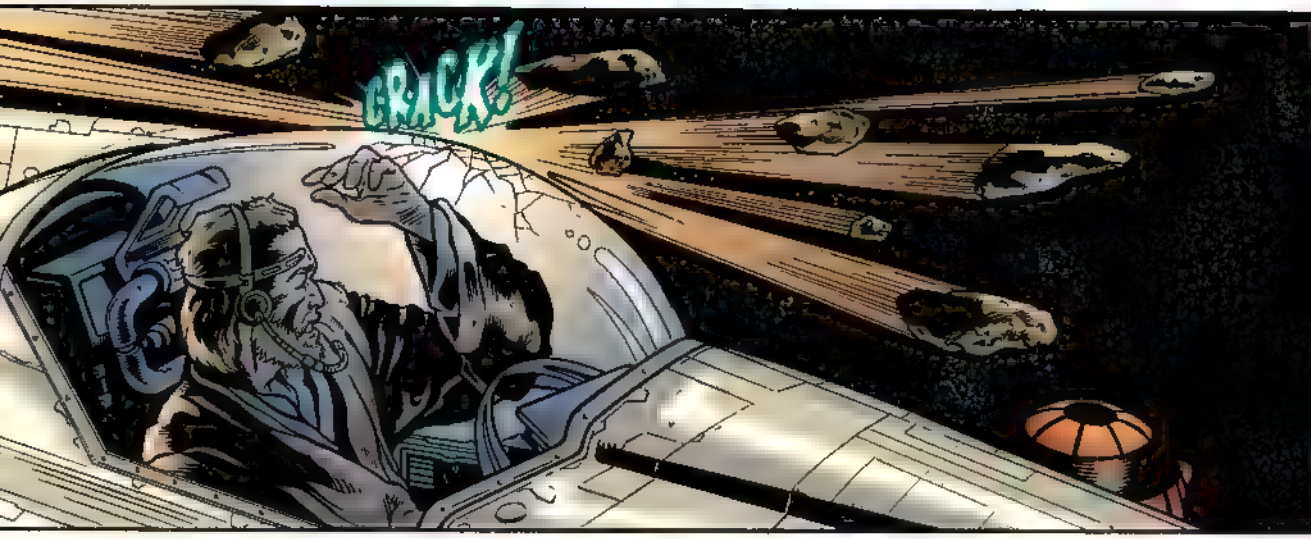
THERE'S A REASON I'M THE MOST-FEARED BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE GALAXY...
...LET ME SHOW HIM WHY!
BZZZAP
BZZZAP


IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THE ONSLAUGHT, OBI-WAN MANEUVERS THE *JEDI STARFIGHTER* INTO THE NEARBY ASTEROID FIELD...
JEDI FOOL! IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN A FEW FLOATING ROCKS TO STOP THE FIREPOWER OF *SLAVE I*! I'VE GOT HIM OUTGUNNED AND ON THE RUN...
...AND THE FUN'S ONLY JUST BEGINNING.
POOSH
WITH A PUSH OF A BUTTON, JANGO FETT UNVEILS *SLAVE I*'S DEADLY SECRET... A HIDDEN MISSILE LAUNCHER!
LET'S SEE YOUR ALL-POWERFUL FORCE STAND UP TO THIS!


FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!

BEEP-
BOOP-DEEP!
I KNOW!
I KNOW!


KA-BOOM
THAT WAS
CLOSE!


CRACK!

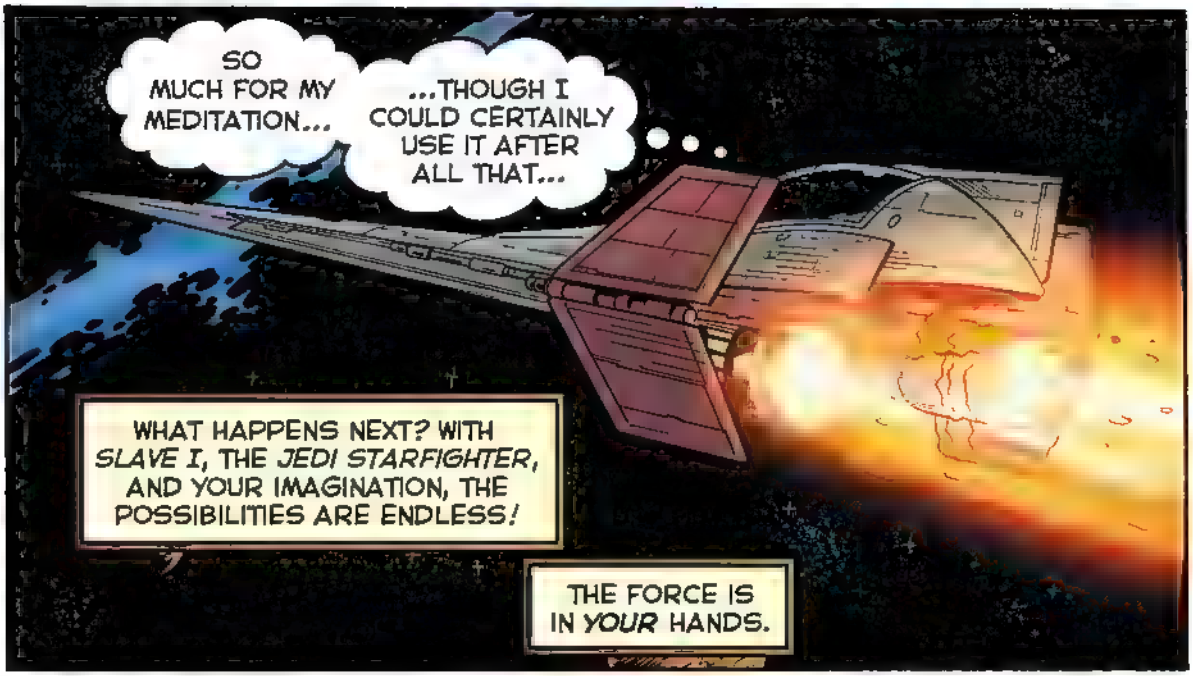
SO MUCH FOR CLOSE...
KA-BOOM!!!
MY SHIELDS CAN'T HANDLE ANOTHER HIT. TIME TO EVEN UP THE ODDS A BIT...
LET'S SEE YOUR FORCE GET YOU OUT OF THIS ONE, JEDI!

THE JEDI STARFIGHTER QUICKLY CONVERTS TO FIGHT MODE, TURNING THE TIDE OF THE SPACE BATTLE!
WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN THAT THE JEDI STARFIGHTER IS FULL OF SURPRISES!
WHAT?!
BZAP
BZAP

FWOOSH!
FWOOSH!
KA-PLOOM
AAGHHH!!!
BZZAP
BZZAP
BZZAP
BZZAP

YOU'VE MADE AN ENEMY TODAY, JEDI! THIS ISN'T OVER...

I'D BETTER REACH ALBECUS QUICKLY SO I CAN GET BACK TO INFORM THE JEDI COUNCIL ABOUT THAT SHIP. I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL SEE IT AGAIN.


SO MUCH FOR MY MEDITATION...
...THOUGH I COULD CERTAINLY USE IT AFTER ALL THAT...
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? WITH *SLAVE I*, THE *JEDI STARFIGHTER*, AND YOUR IMAGINATION, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!
THE FORCE IS IN *YOUR* HANDS.

END

Most Precious Weapon | Illustration by Francis Portela, Albert Xiques, and Dinei Chameleon

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-TWO YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

script by Jason Hall

pencils by Francis Portela

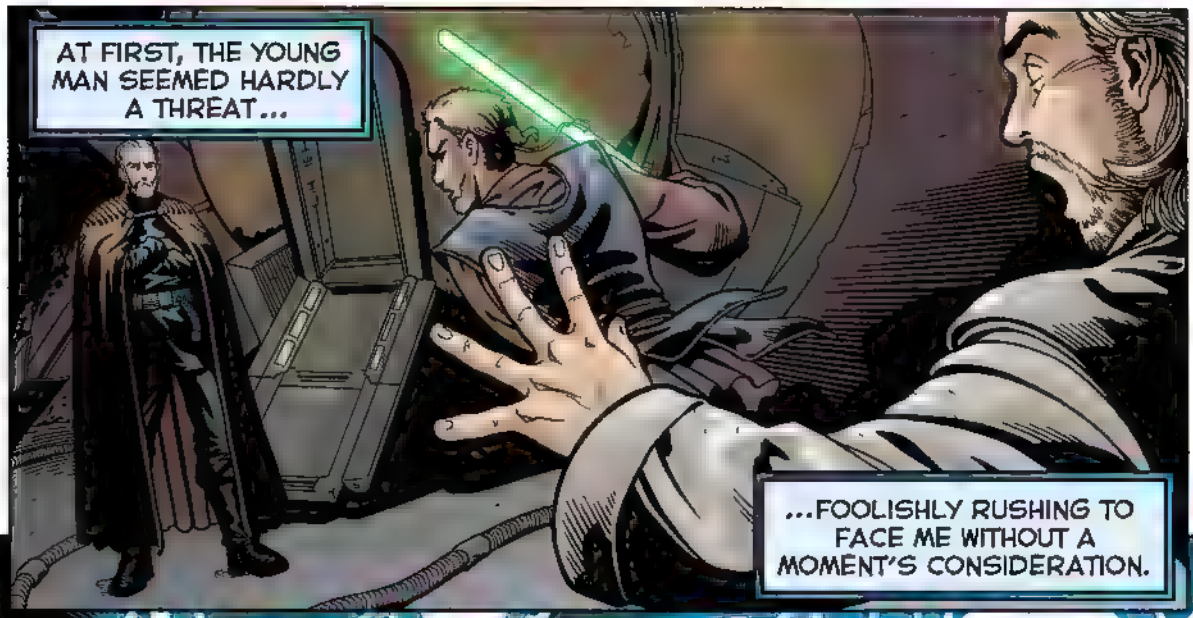
inks by Albert Xiques

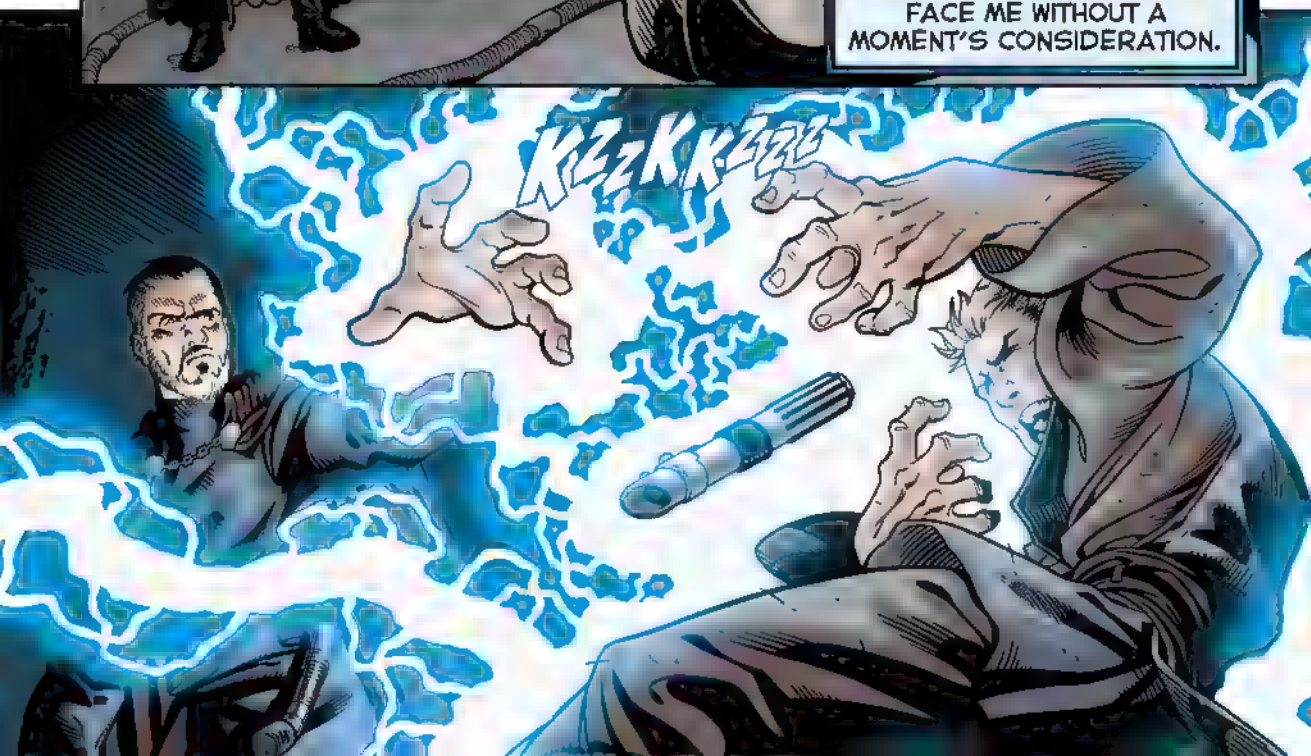
colors and letters by Digital Chameleon

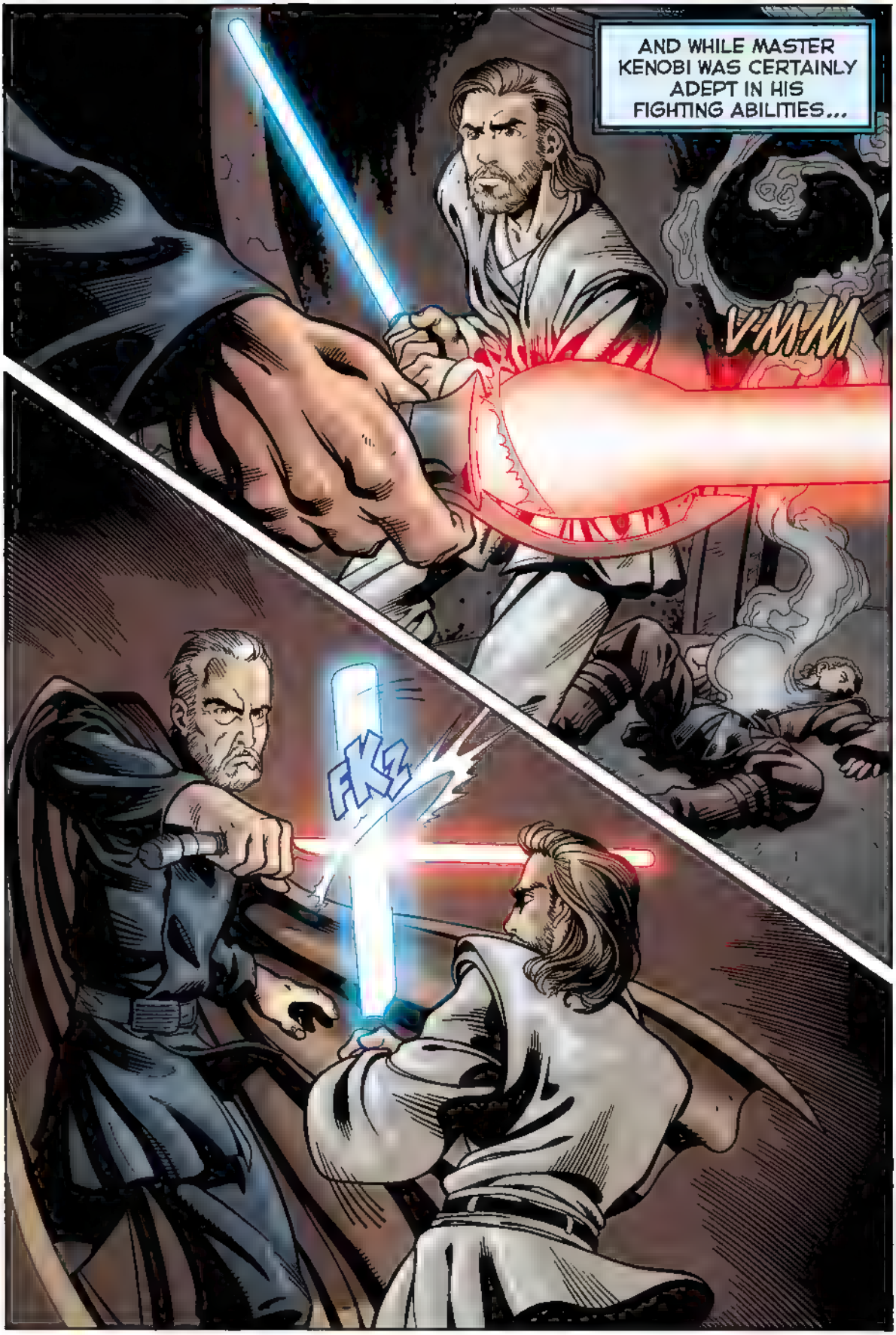
COUNT DOOKU'S SOLAR SAILER EMERGES FROM AN ASTEROID FIELD...
...HAVING SUCCESSFULLY MASKED HIS ESCAPE FROM THE REPUBLIC CLONE ARMY AND THE JEDI ON GEONOSIS.
THE WAR HAS FINALLY BEGUN... MY MASTER WILL BE PLEASED.
FACING THE JEDI WAS MORE *EXHILARATING* THAN I WOULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED.
VMM
ESPECIALLY AGAINST MY FORMER MASTER...
"A JEDI'S MOST PRECIOUS WEAPON, THE LIGHTSABER IS..."

...AN EXTENSION OF YOUR ARM... YOUR MIND...YOUR *VERY BEING*, IT MUST BE.
UNDERSTAND THIS DO YOU, DOOKU, MY YOUNG PADAWAN?
YES, MASTER YODA.
HOW IRONIC THAT YODA'S LESSON WOULD PROVE SO VERY USEFUL...

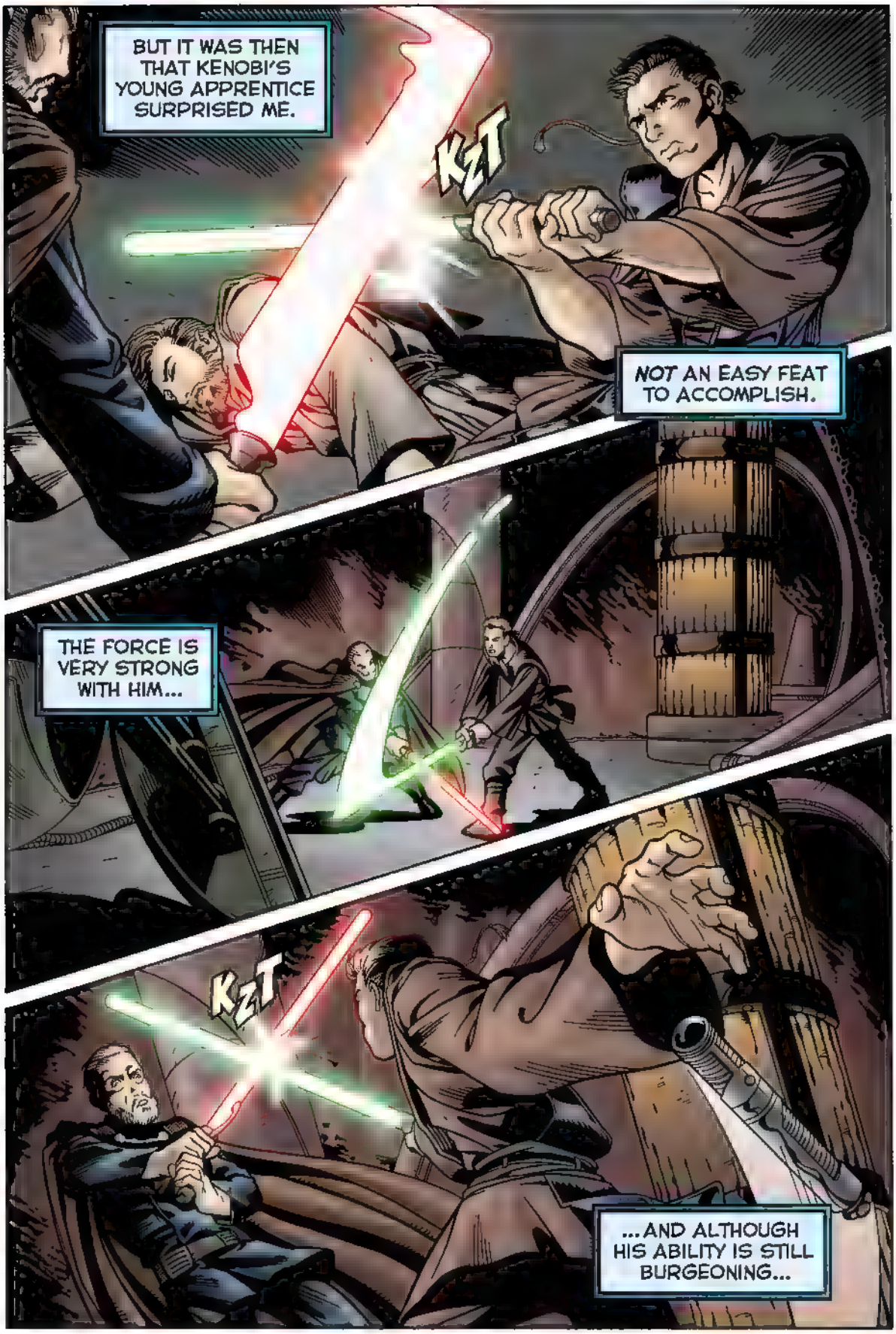
...AGAINST THE JEDI I FACED IN BATTLE TODAY!
I WAS AMUSED, YET INTRIGUED, BY THE BRASH PADAWAN LEARNER.


AT FIRST, THE YOUNG MAN SEEMED HARDLY A THREAT...
...FOOLISHLY RUSHING TO FACE ME WITHOUT A MOMENT'S CONSIDERATION.


KZZKKZZZ

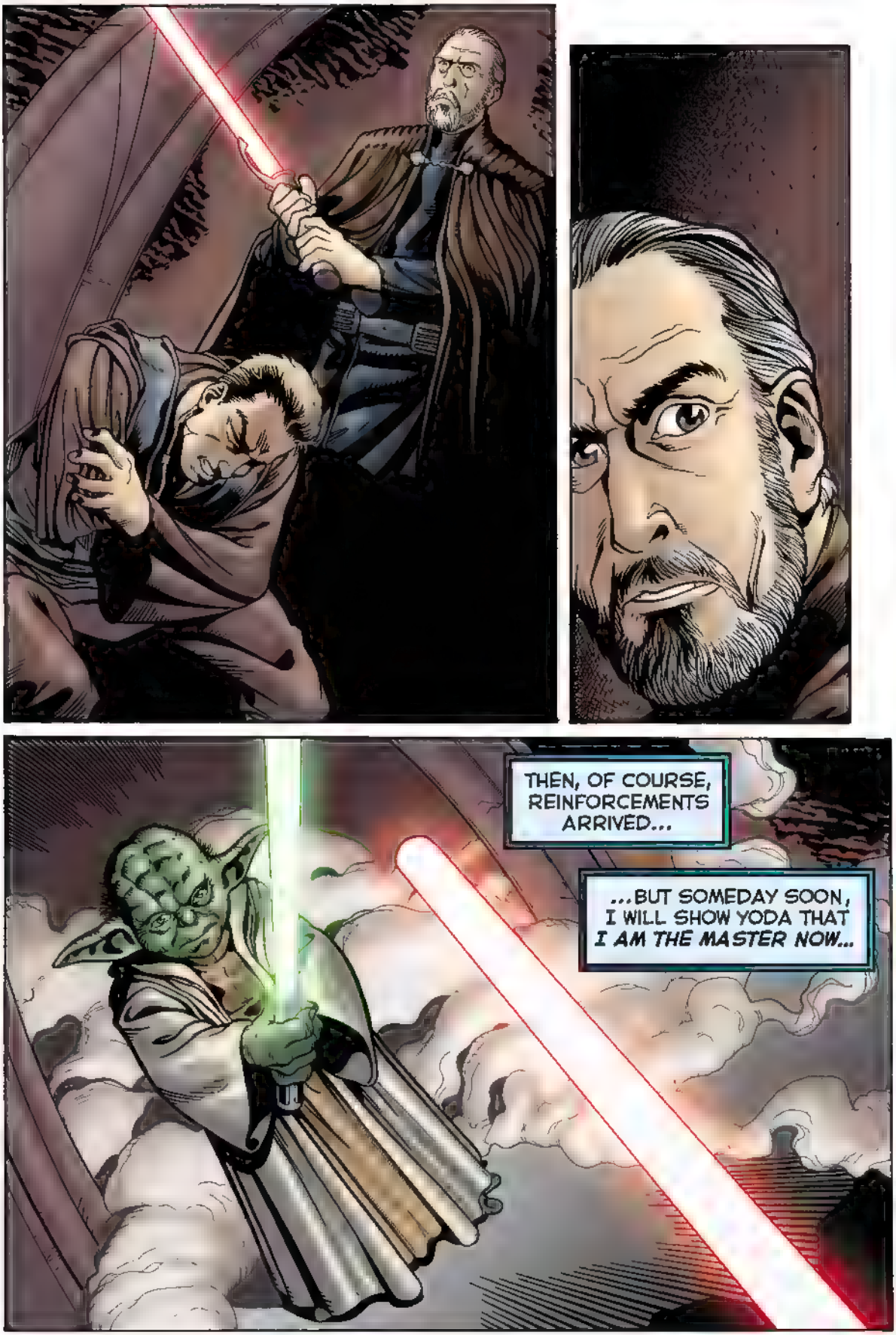

AND WHILE MASTER KENOBI WAS CERTAINLY ADEPT IN HIS FIGHTING ABILITIES...
VMM
FKZZ

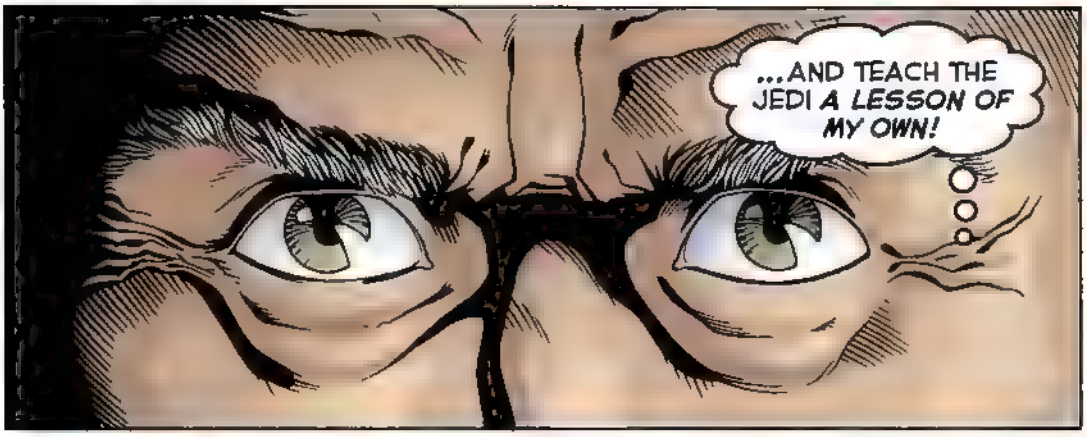
KZZ
TO BE HONEST, I EXPECTED MUCH MORE...
...FROM QUI-GON'S FORMER PADAWAN.
FSSZ

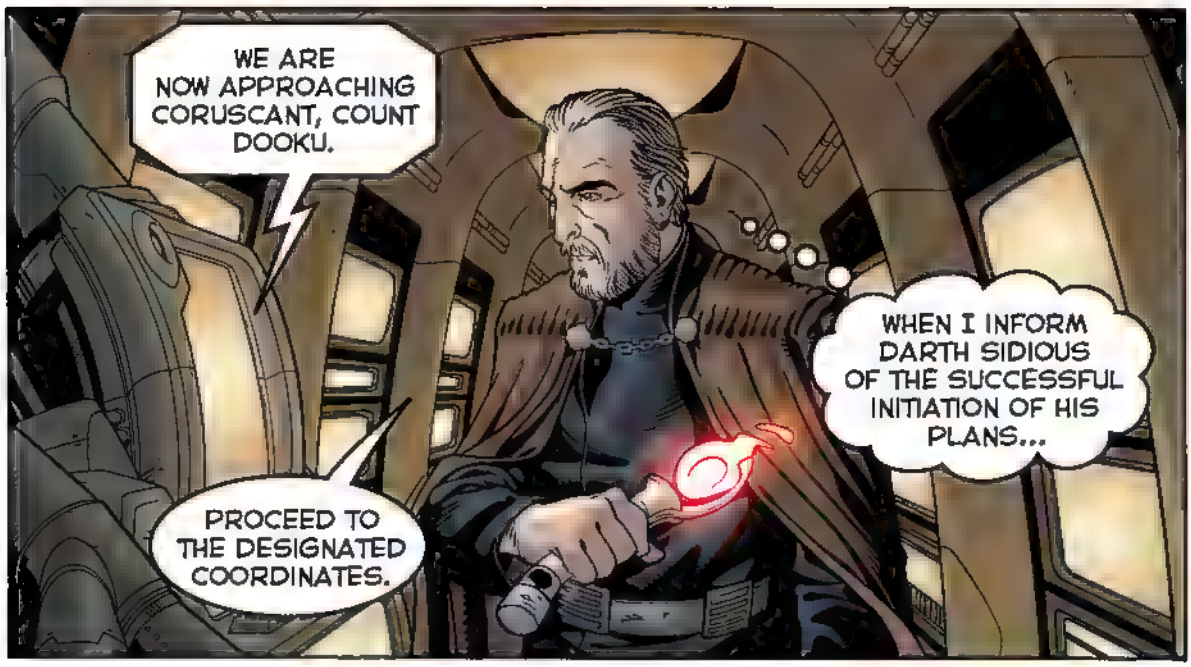

BUT IT WAS THEN THAT KENOBI'S YOUNG APPRENTICE SURPRISED ME.
KZT
NOT AN EASY FEAT TO ACCOMPLISH.
THE FORCE IS VERY STRONG WITH HIM...
KZT
...AND ALTHOUGH HIS ABILITY IS STILL BURGEONING...

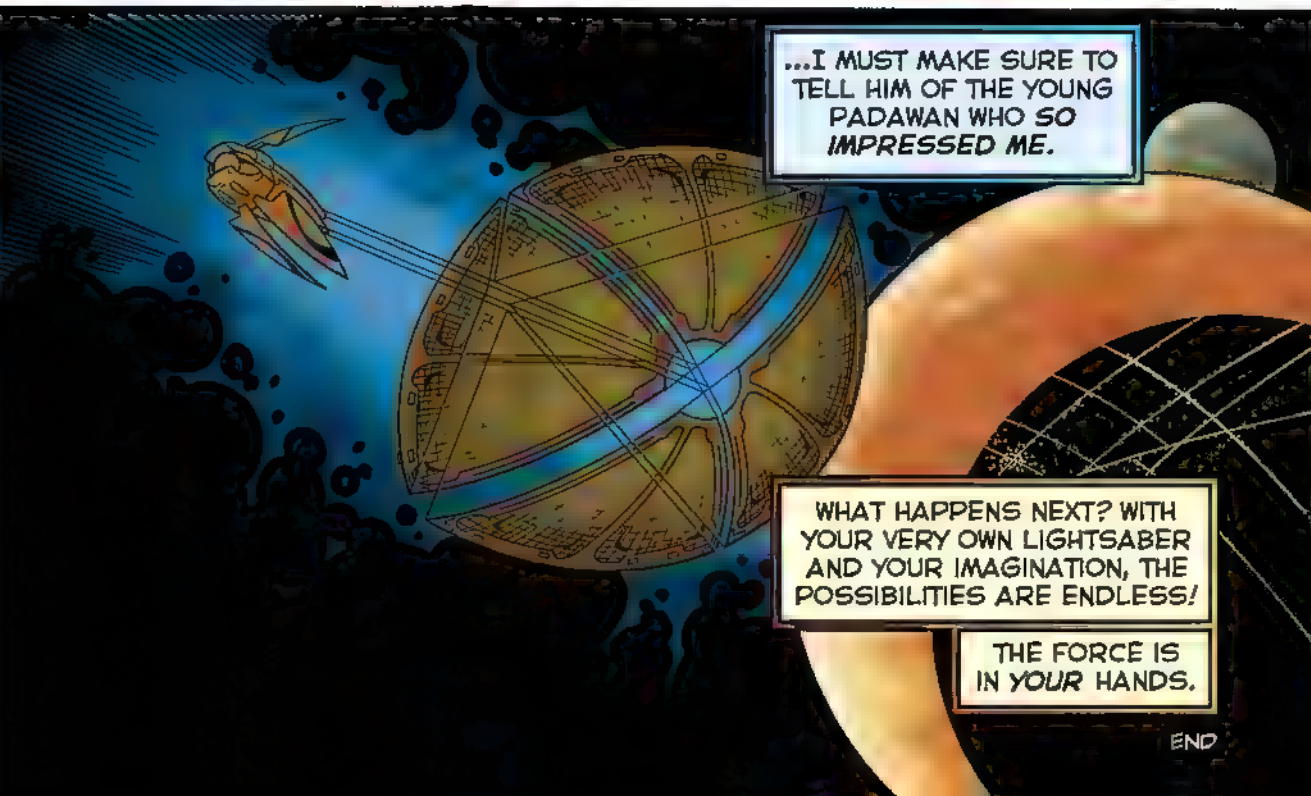
...HE HAD A POTENTIAL IN THE FORCE GREATER THAN ANYONE I HAVE EVER COME INTO CONTACT WITH.
ZKKZT
KZZ
IMPRESSIVE.
KZZT
ZKKZT

BUT NOT IMPRESSIVE ENOUGH.
TWAAK
VMMM
HIS TEMPER... HIS PURE ANGER...
...WAS HIS UNDOING.
AAAGGHHH!


THEN, OF COURSE, REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED...
...BUT SOMEDAY SOON, I WILL SHOW YODA THAT *I AM THE MASTER NOW...*


...AND TEACH THE JEDI *A LESSON OF MY OWN!*


WE ARE NOW APPROACHING CORUSCANT, COUNT DOOKU.
PROCEED TO THE DESIGNATED COORDINATES.
WHEN I INFORM DARTH SIDIOUS OF THE SUCCESSFUL INITIATION OF HIS PLANS...


...I MUST MAKE SURE TO TELL HIM OF THE YOUNG PADAWAN WHO *SO IMPRESSED ME.*
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? WITH YOUR VERY OWN LIGHTSABER AND YOUR IMAGINATION, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!
THE FORCE IS IN *YOUR* HANDS.
END

Practice Makes Perfect | illustration by Manuel Garcia, Fernando Blanco, and Digital Chameleon

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-TWO YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

script by Jason Hall

pencils by Manuel Garcia

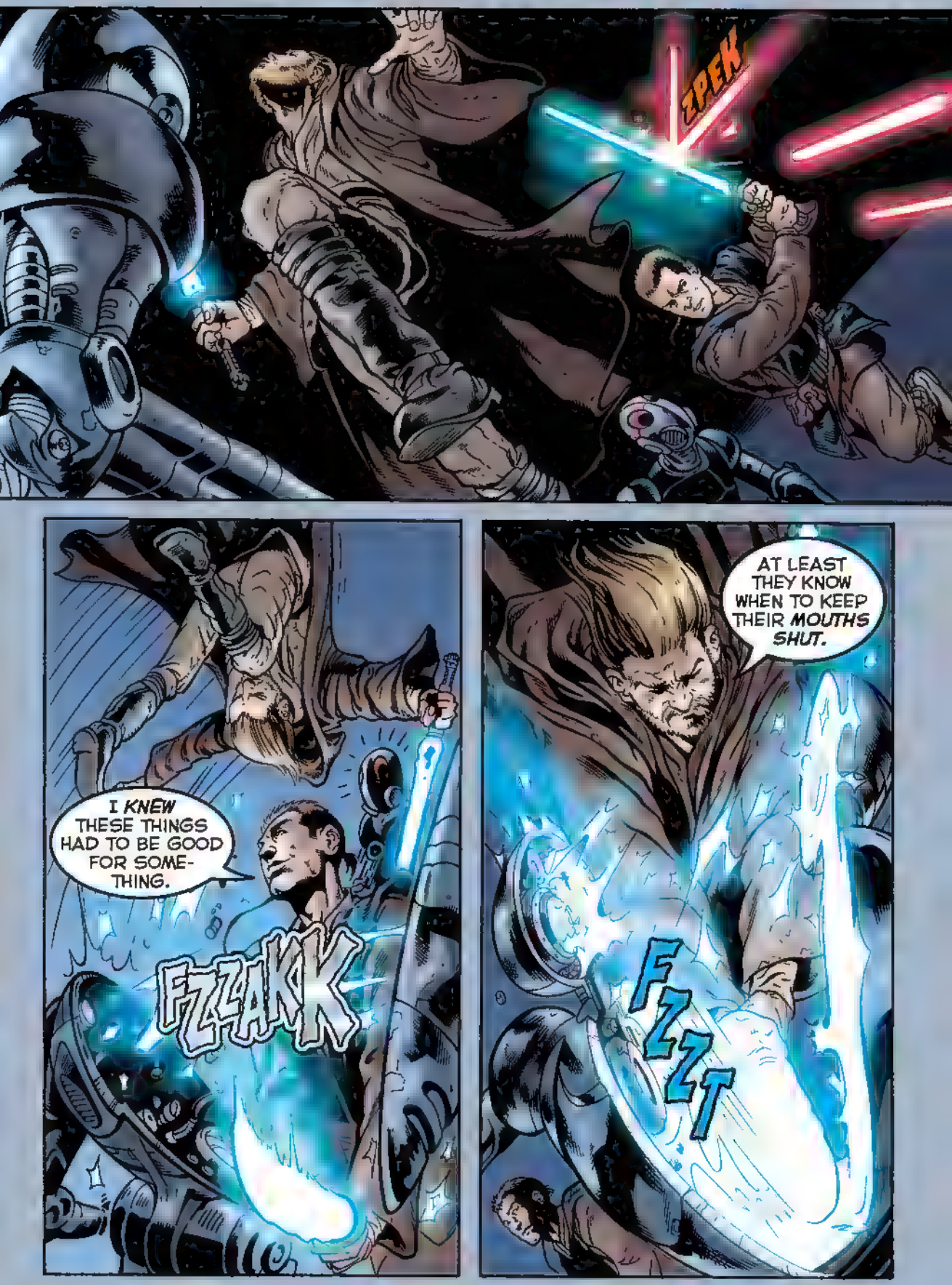
inks by Fernando Blanco

colors and letters by Digital Chameleon

I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE...
ANAKIN, STAY SHARP!
COME ON! I COULD TAKE THESE GUYS IN MY SLEEP.

IN FACT, I WAS THINKING OF CATCHING UP ON SOME MEDITATION DURING THE FIGHT.
click
VvMMMM
FFZZZTT
SAVE THE BANTER, ANAKIN...AND *CONCENTRATE!*
I'LL TRY NOT TO LOSE MY HEAD...
PZZT

ZPAK
BTEW
BZZAAK-FZZT


ZPEK
I KNEW THESE THINGS HAD TO BE GOOD FOR SOME-THING.
FZZAKK
AT LEAST THEY KNOW WHEN TO KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT.
FZZT

ACTUALLY, I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE MOUTHS.
OBI-WAN, CATCH!
ZZP
SEW
ZZT
ZPOW
WHAT COMES AROUND, GOES AROUND...

VVMMMM
ZZZRK
ZZRK
VMM

OKAY...
...WHO'S FIRST?
BTEW
BTEW

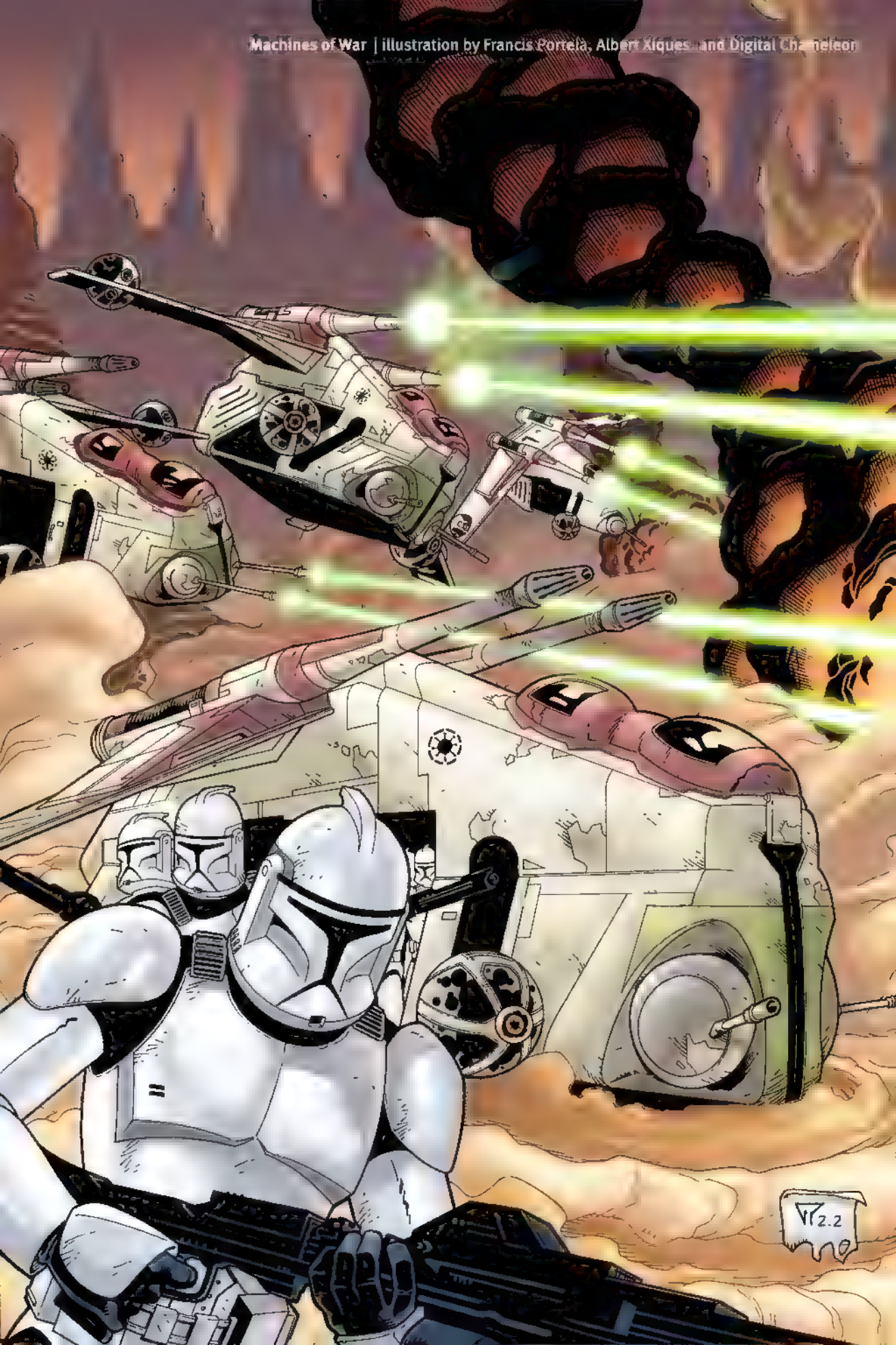
ZZK
ZZK
NEVER MIND.

HA!
TOONK

NICELY DONE.

I THOUGHT THESE TESTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE *DIFFICULT.*

ANAKIN, ALTHOUGH THE FORCE IS CLEARLY YOUR ALLY, OVERCONFIDENCE IS NOT!
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO YOUR MASTER, YOUNG PADAWAN. HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH.
AND LET THAT BE THE FINAL LESSON FOR TODAY.
THE COUNCIL HAS AN IMPORTANT MISSION FOR YOU BOTH.
NO PROBLEM.
WE CAN HANDLE ANYTHING!
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? WITH LIGHTSABER-SUMMONING ACTION FIGURES, FLIPPING JEDI FIGURES, AND YOUR IMAGINATION, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!
THE FORCE IS IN YOUR HANDS.
END


Machines of War | illustration by Francis Portela, Albert Xiques and Digital Chameleon

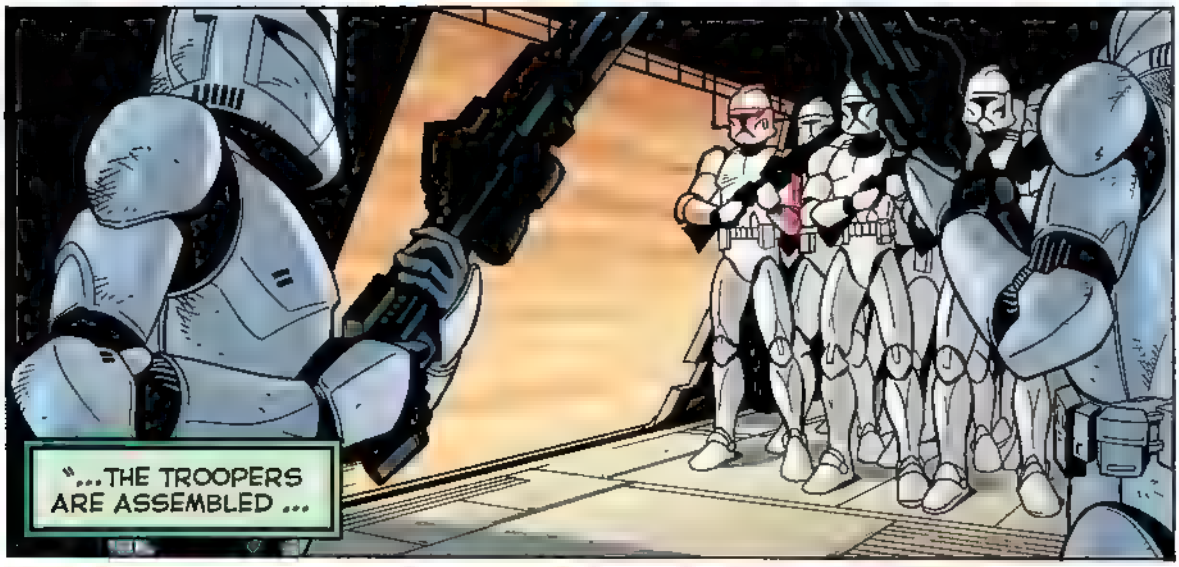
Approximately twenty-two years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

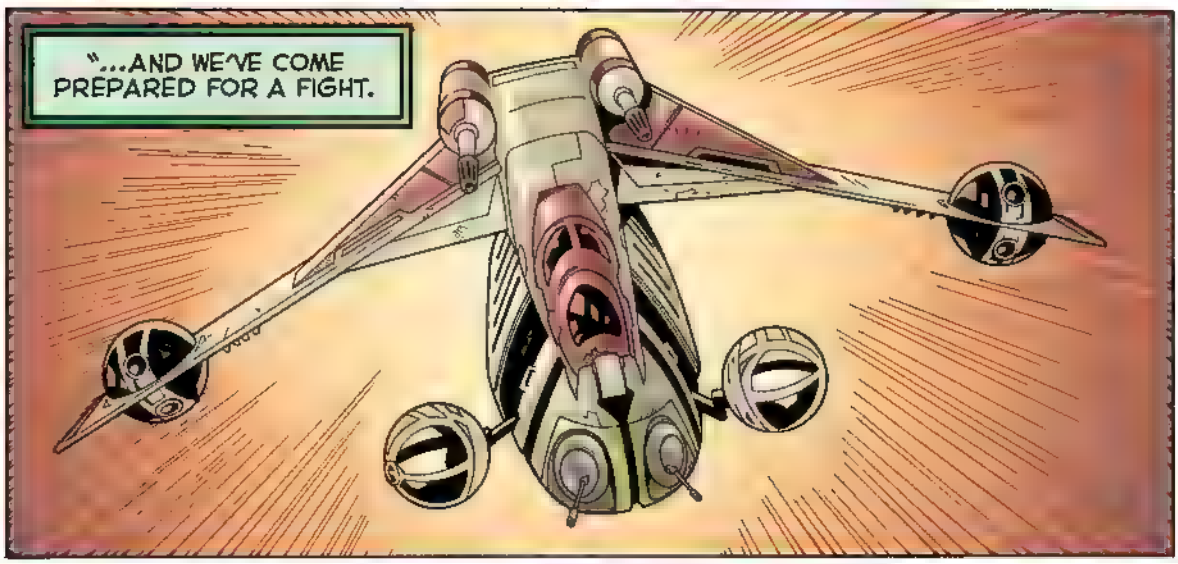
script by Jason Hall
pencils by Francis Portela
inks by Albert Xiques
colors and letters by Digital Chameleon

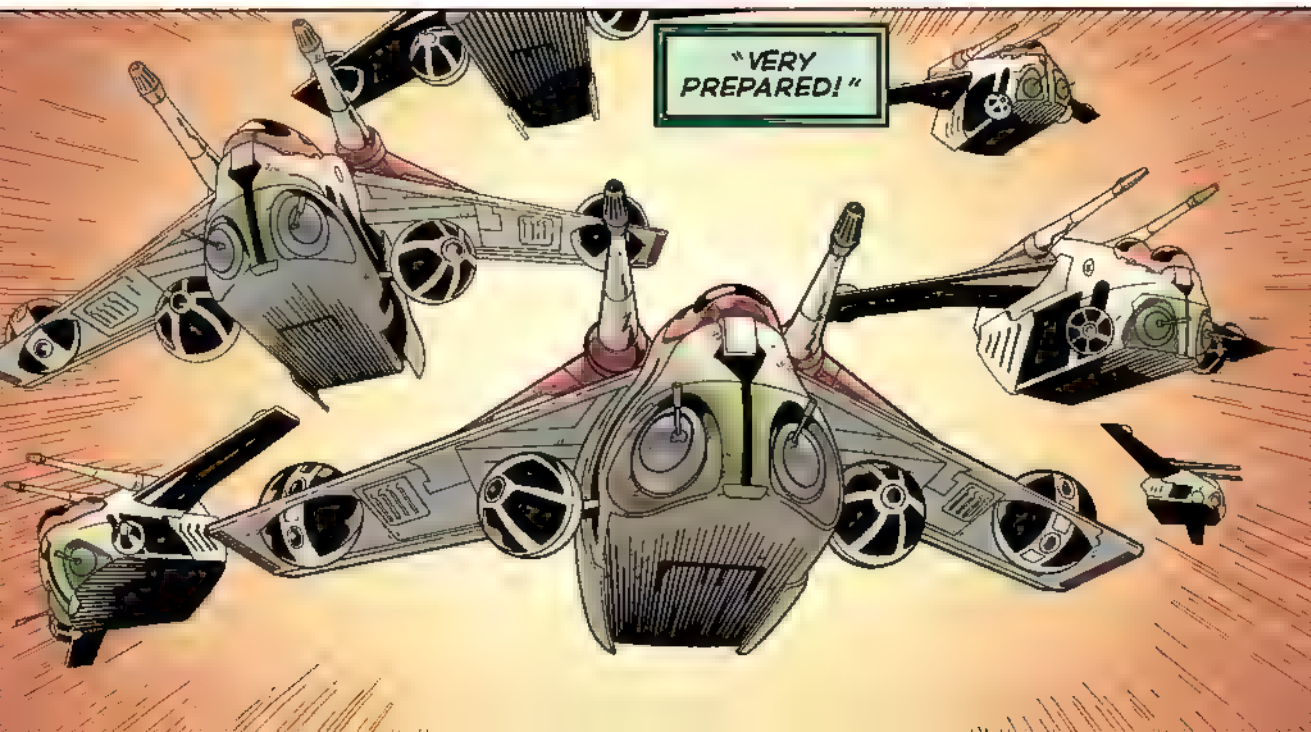
WE'LL BE ARRIVING AT THE ARENA MOMENTARILY.
THE PLANET GEONOSIS.
ABOARD THE LEAD REPUBLIC GUNSHIP.
GOOD...

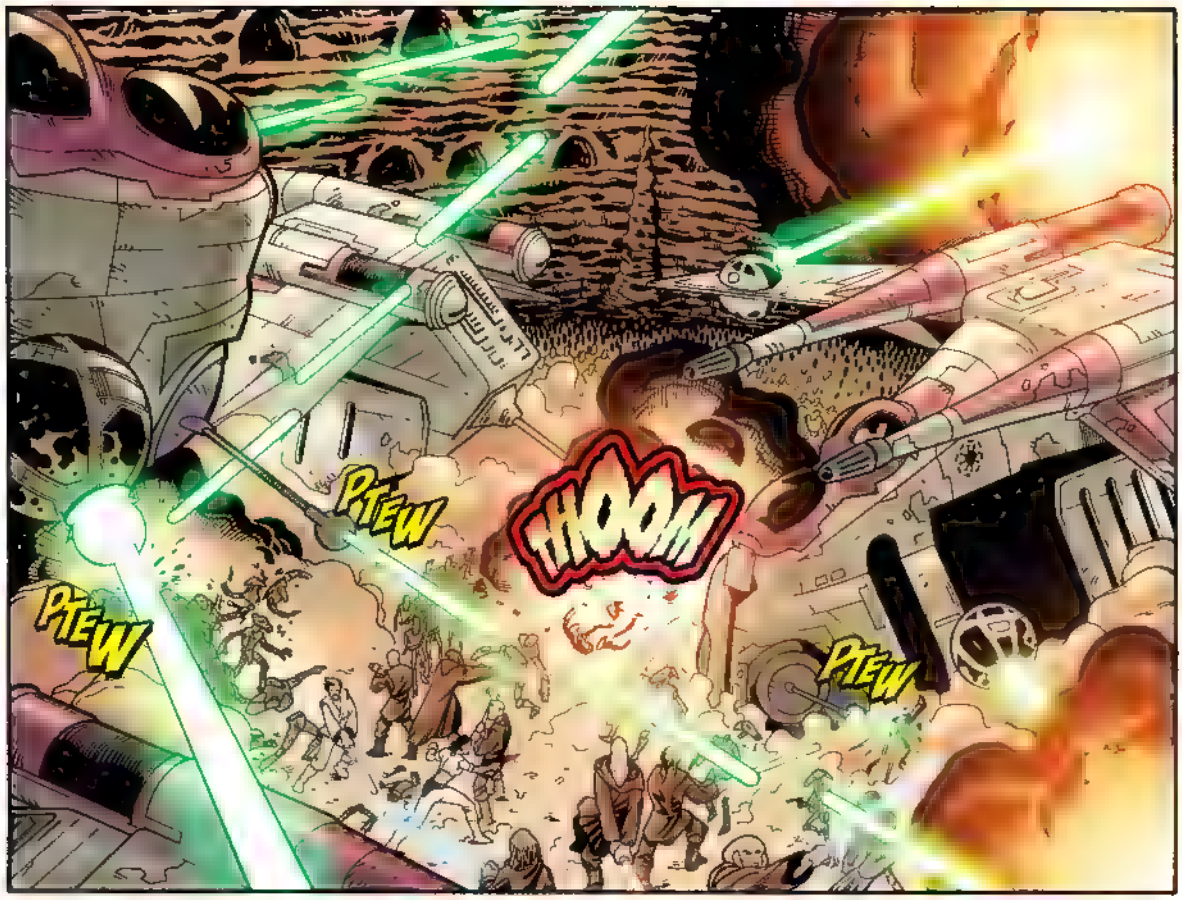
...THERE IS MUCH TROUBLE TRANSPIRING HERE...

...AND ONLY BEGINNING, IT IS!
NOT TO WORRY, MASTER YODA...

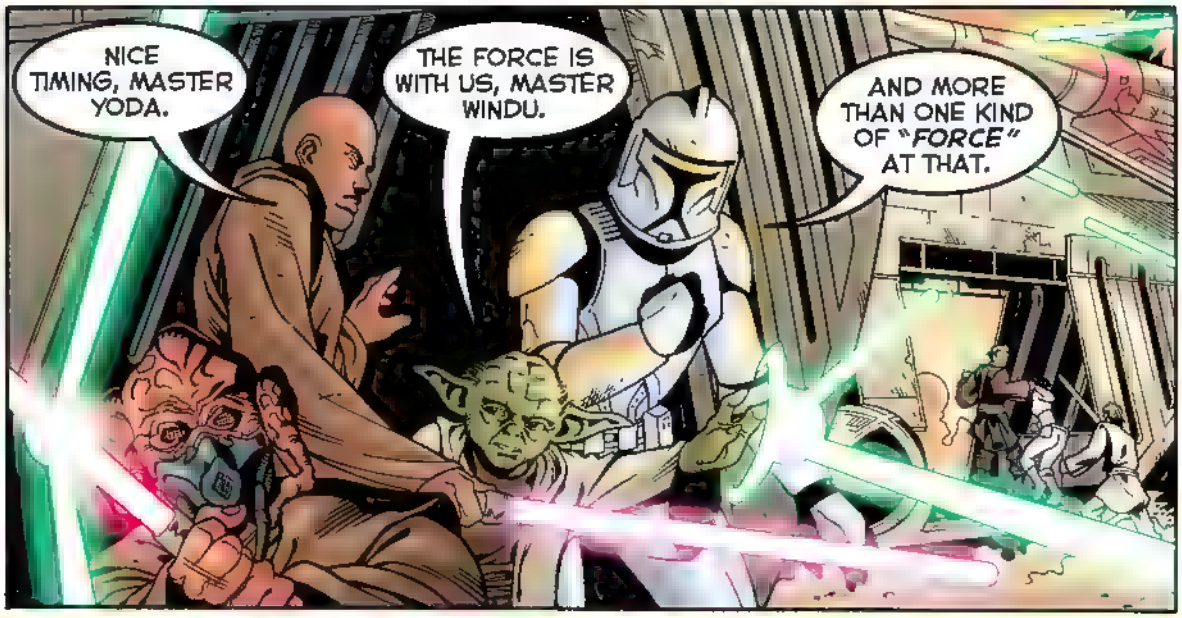

"...THE TROOPERS ARE ASSEMBLED ...

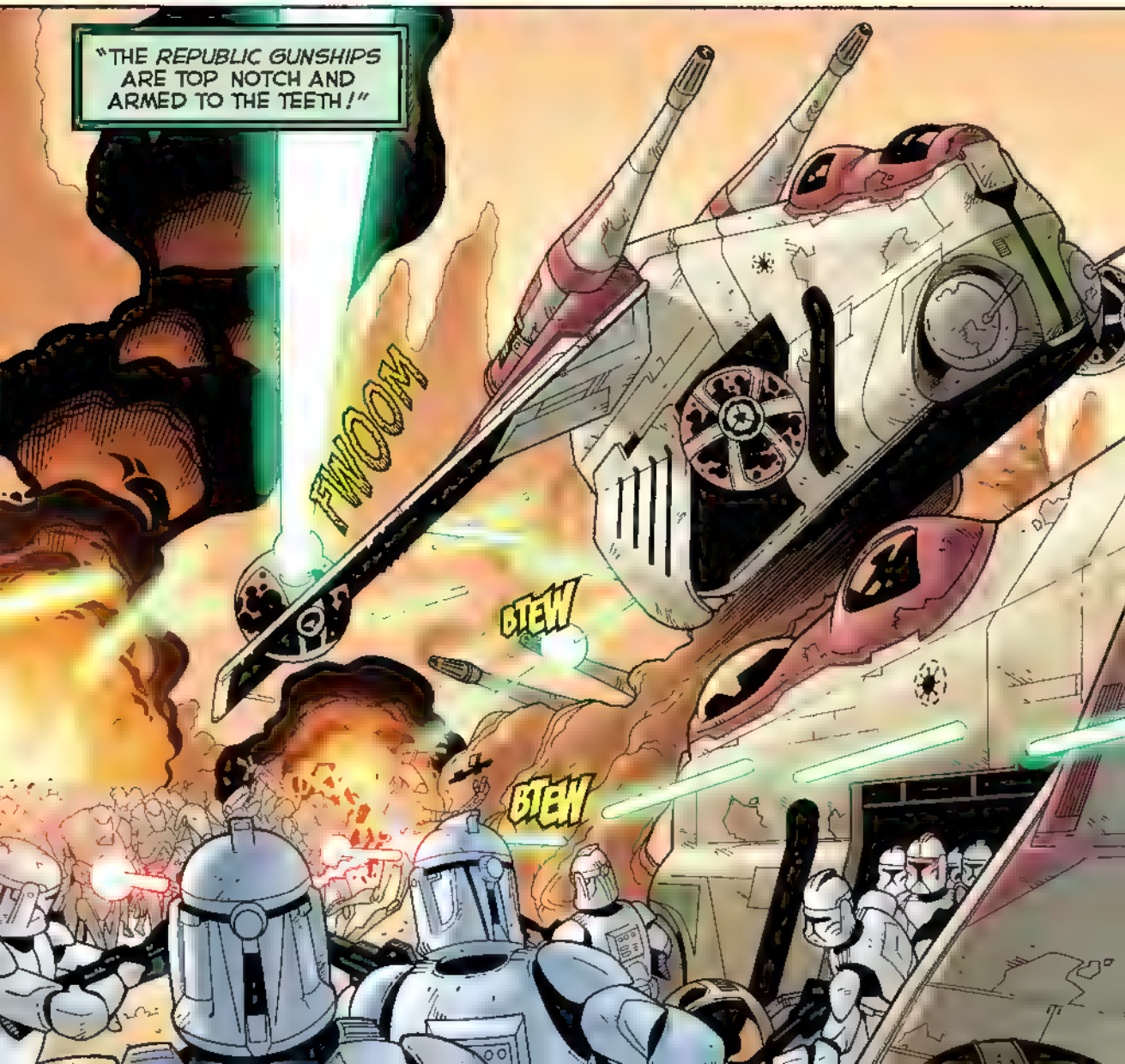

"...AND WE'VE COME PREPARED FOR A FIGHT.

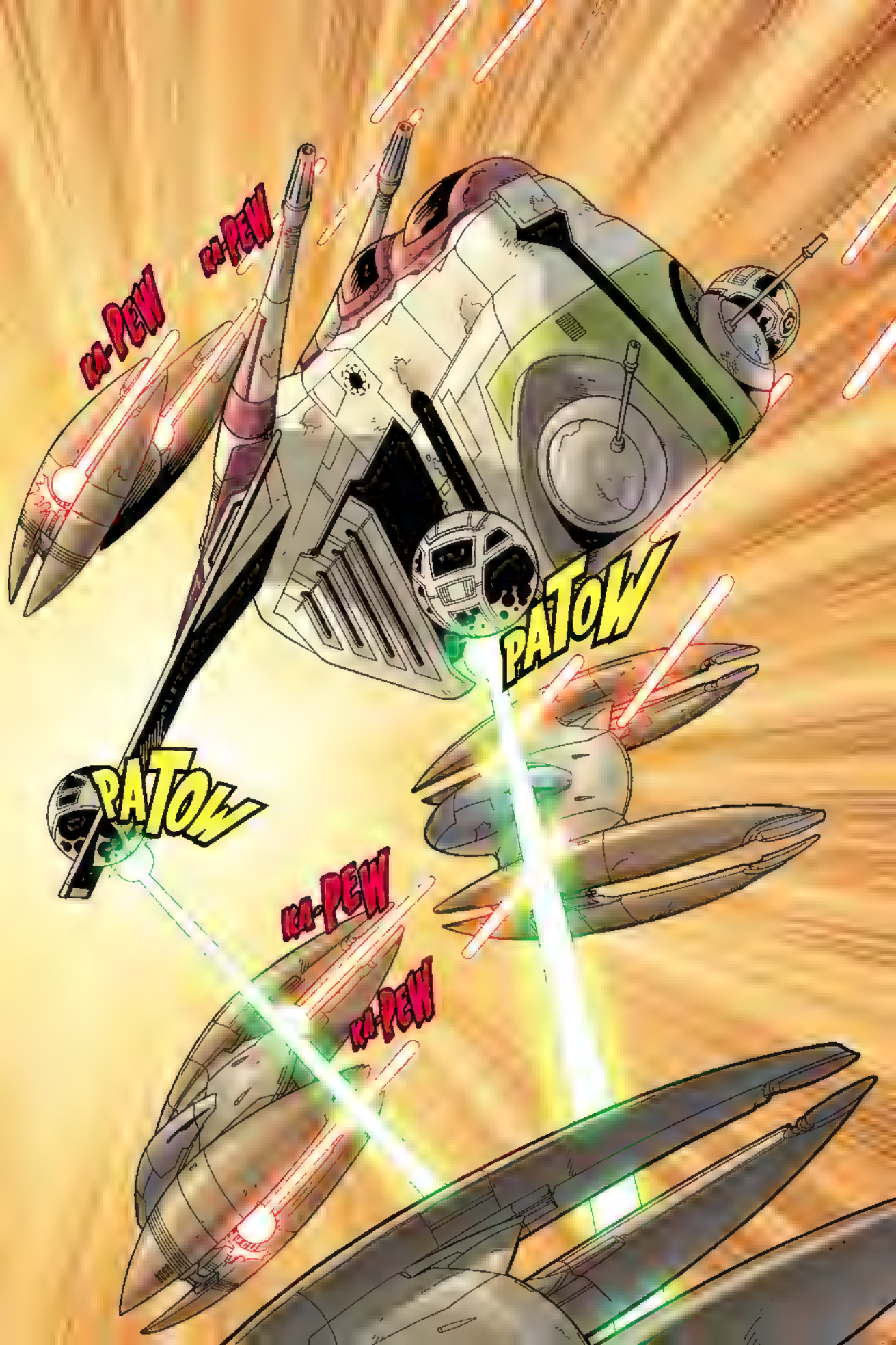

"VERY PREPARED!"


PTEW
PTEW
HOOM
PTEW

BTEW
BTEW

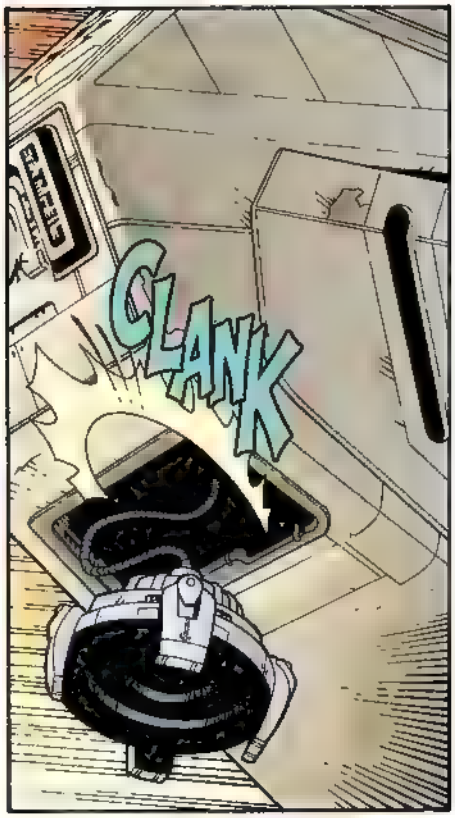

NICE TIMING, MASTER YODA.
THE FORCE IS WITH US, MASTER WINDU.
AND MORE THAN ONE KIND OF "FORCE" AT THAT.

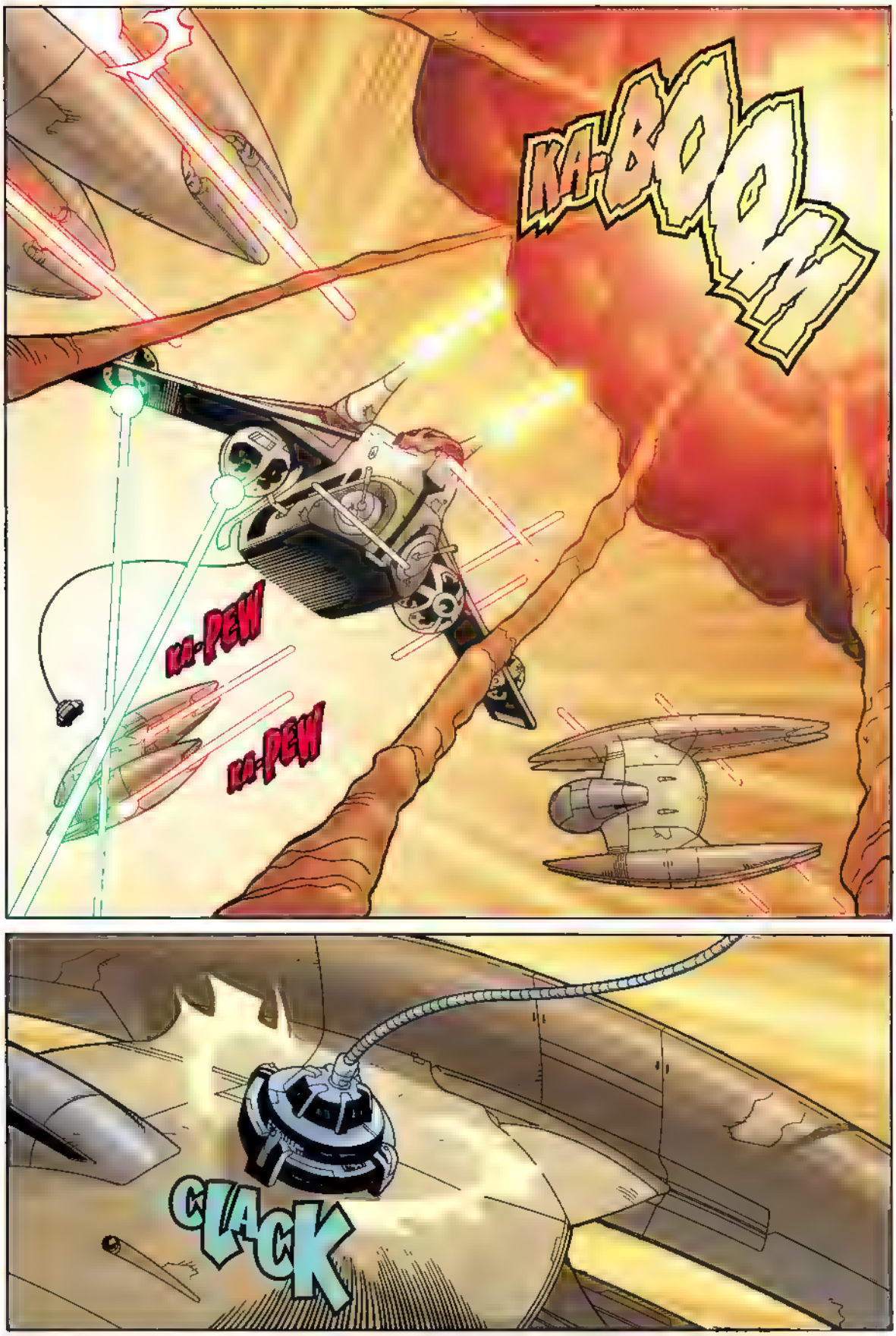

"THE REPUBLIC GUNSHIPS ARE TOP NOTCH AND ARMED TO THE TEETH!"
FWOOM
BTEW
BTEW

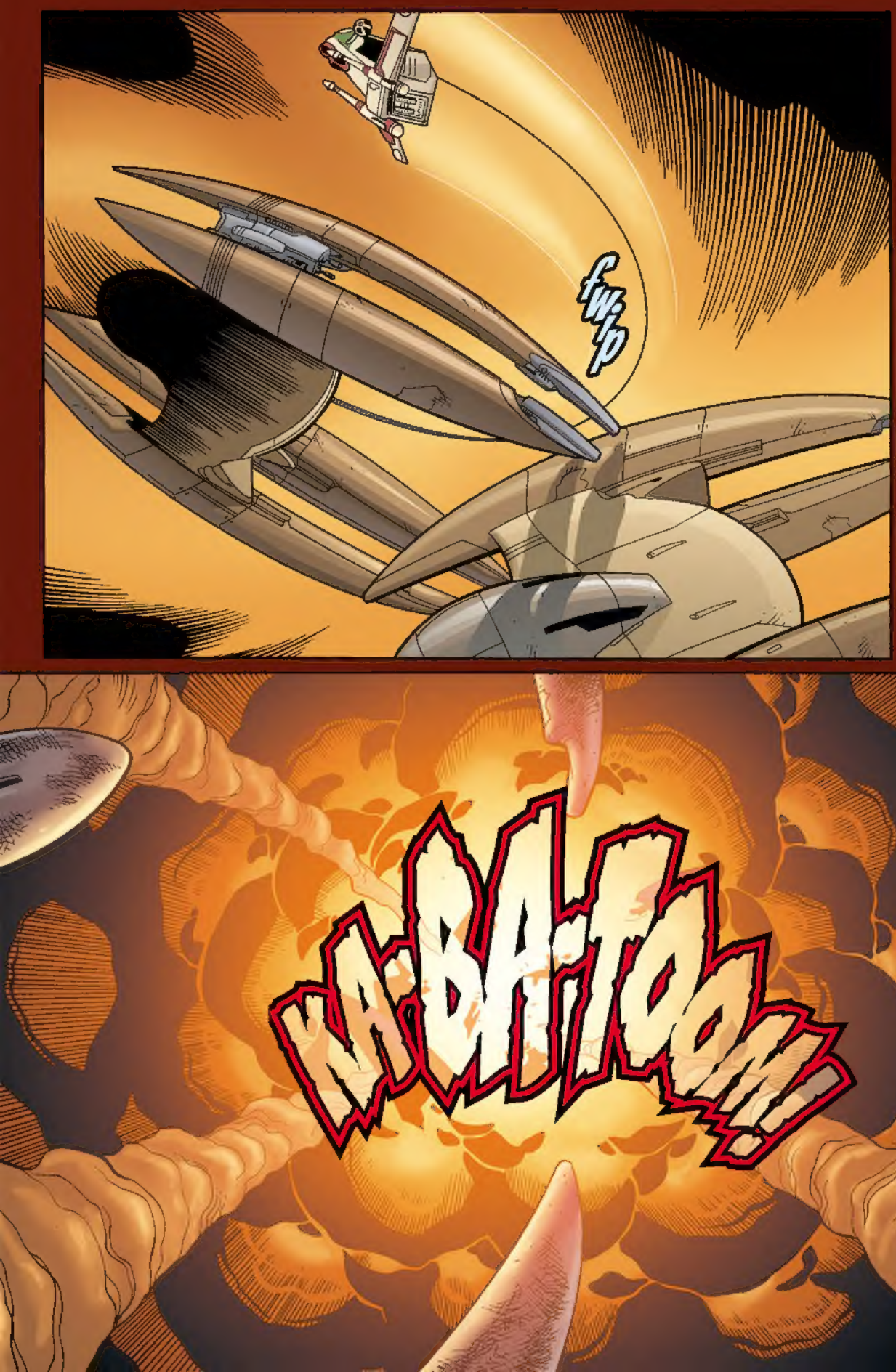

KA-PEW
KA-PEW
KA-PEW
PATOW
PATOW
KA-PEW
KA-PEW

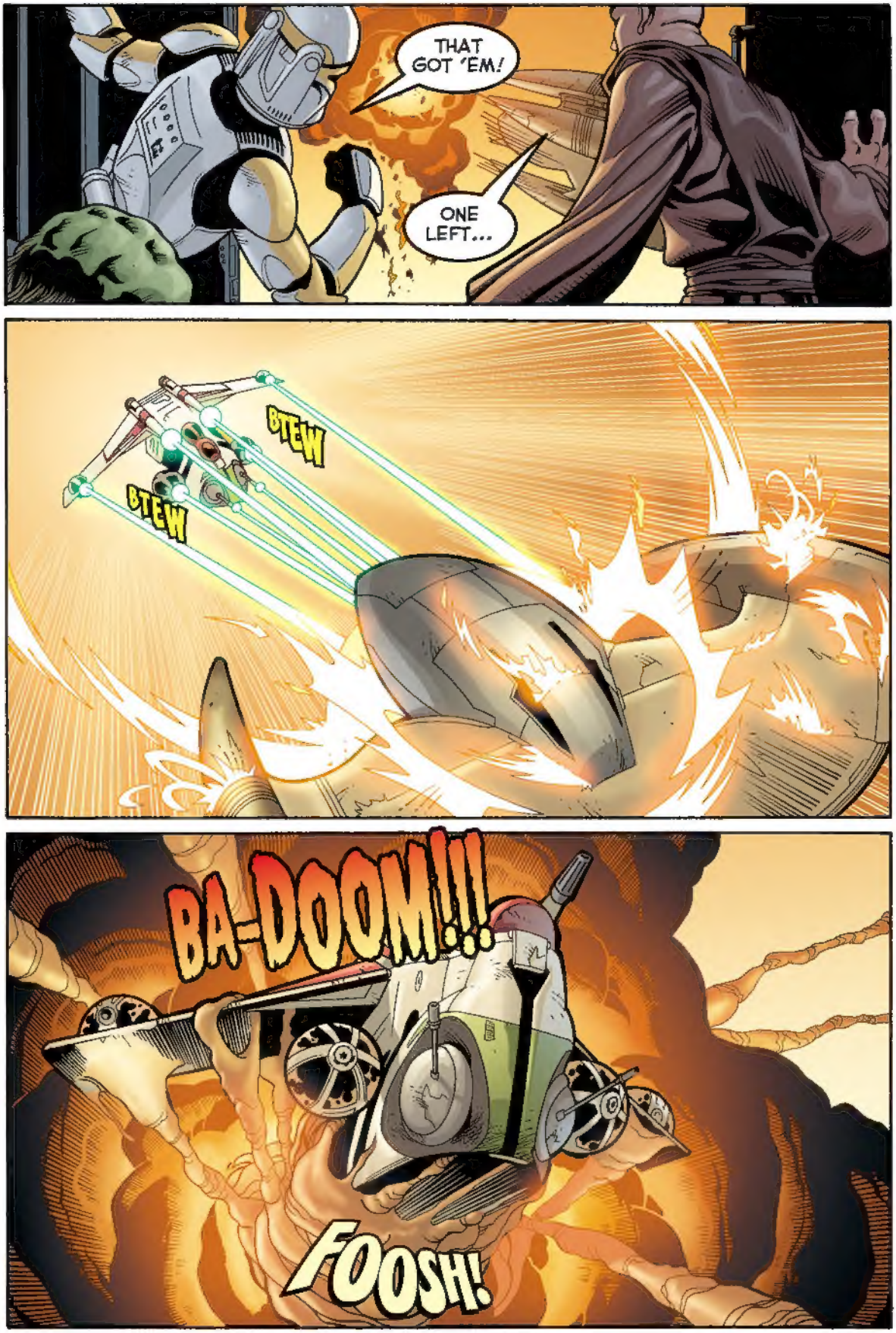
KA-THOOM
SURROUNDED, WE ARE...
NOT TO WORRY, SIR.

I GUESS IT'S TIME I SHOWED YOU JUST WHAT THIS SHIP CAN DO.
RELEASE THE GRAPPLING HOOK! ARM THE LASER CANNONS!


CLANK

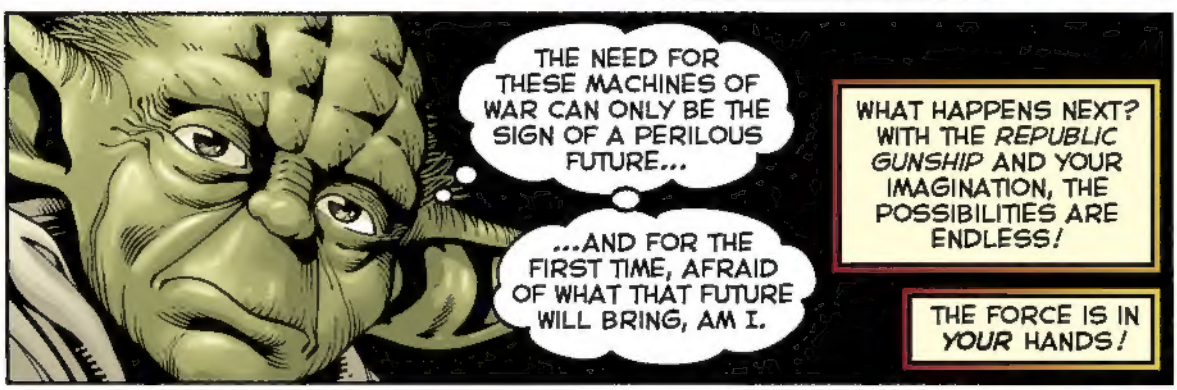

KA-BOOM
KA-PEW
KA-PEW
CLACK


fwip
KA-BA-TOOM!


THAT GOT 'EM!
ONE LEFT...
BTEW
BTEW
BA-DOOM!!!
FOOSH!

RETURN THE SHIP TO THE GROUND, WE MUST.
TIME, IT IS, THAT I BRING THE BATTLE TO OUR ENEMY IN PERSON.

I TOLD YOU THOSE SHIPS WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR THE *REPUBLIC GUNSHIP*.
YES... VERY POWERFUL, THIS SHIP IS.
MUCH DESTRUCTION HAS IT CAUSED.


THE NEED FOR THESE MACHINES OF WAR CAN ONLY BE THE SIGN OF A PERILOUS FUTURE...
...AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, AFRAID OF WHAT THAT FUTURE WILL BRING, AM I.
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? WITH THE *REPUBLIC GUNSHIP* AND YOUR IMAGINATION, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS!
THE FORCE IS IN *YOUR* HANDS!

END

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MENACE REVEALED

Having become aware of an emerging Sith threat by the events in *The Phantom Menace*, the Jedi perceive a shadow falling across the galaxy, accompanied by increased criminal activity among mercenaries, pirates, slavers, assassins, and bounty hunters. Now the injustice the Jedi fight seems to herald a perilous future—especially when some villains become indistinguishable from the heroes, and some heroes turn out to be villains . . .

This volume contains hard-to-find stories from *Dark Horse Extra*, mini-comics included with Hasbro's *Star Wars* toys, issues of Dark Horse Comics' *Star Wars* series, and the story *Jedi Quest*, which have never before been collected.

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